

Hope Brook - Reminders

Please find outlined below some reminders about the items that children need in school. I have also tried to provide some helpful tips /advice to aid the smooth running of a school day and ensure that children are well prepared - so we can focus on the main purpose of our day, teaching your children.

Start of the day

The new term starts on Wednesday 6th September 2023. The gates will open at 8.35am and registration will open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am.

Children can be dropped off in the lower playground at the start of the day. Most of the children will then enter their classroom via the doors on the lower playground. Robins will access their classroom from their outside play area and Y3 (Wagtails) will access their classroom via the outside hall door.

Please be aware that when children arrive at school they often want to share their news with the classteacher. This can mean it is difficult for the teachers to be available at the beginning of the school day. If you need to pass on a quick message to the teachers, please feel free to email the office. If you need a longer conversation, the teachers will always be happy to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time or phone call.

Our teaching day starts at 8.50am. The children will need to get themselves organized for the start of their day - hang up their coats, put their lunchboxes on the trolley and place their book bags in the appropriate place. It is helpful to ensure they have enough time at the start of the day to get themselves organized. Please remember if your child is late, it disturbs the whole class.

Uniform



We are very proud of our school uniform and try to provide simple guidelines that are easy to follow. We ask our children to wear black shoes (not boots or trainers). We discourage extreme haircuts. We ask our children to wear simple hair accessories, where appropriate, to ensure that hair adornments do not cause distraction during the school day. We also ask that the children do not wear jewellery or make-up, particularly nail varnish, to school. If children have pierced ears, plain studs please.

PE Kit

The children will need to bring their PE bag into school, preferably on the first day back. The PE kit comprises - burgundy, blue or black shorts, pale blue t-shirt and trainers. All pieces of the kit should be named and stored in a drawstring bag.



During the Autumn Term, we suggest children also have jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt to wear when the weather becomes chilly.

PE bags remain in school for the half term. If children attend a sports club, we are happy for them to bring in a spare kit for the club. At the end of the club, children are able to go home in that kit - as long as they remember to take their school uniform home with them. If the children wear their school PE kit for a club, they will be asked to get changed back into their uniform after the club - so their PE kit remains in school.

Swimming

Monday is the swimming day for the Year 4 and Year 5 children during the Autumn Term. If your child is in Year 4 or Year 5, please remind the children to bring their swimming kits into school on Monday 11th September 2023.

Outdoor Learning Clothes

Children in Robins and Woodpeckers will have an outdoor learning session one afternoon per week - whatever the weather. It is important to ensure that children have appropriate clothing for these sessions ie these clothes may get dirty. We recommend the following guidelines are followed:

- The children will need appropriate footwear - old trainers or wellies
- Jeans, leggings or joggers - please remember that shorts are not appropriate for many of the activities
- Long sleeved top - to ensure arms are protected
- Warm coat during the winter months
- Some parents might choose to provide an all in one waterproof for children during the wetter months

Children will be asked to bring their outdoor learning clothes into school next year.

Coats

We know the children need their play times and we try to get them outside at break time as often as possible - even if there is drizzle. As you know, the great British weather can be unpredictable, so we recommend that children always have some kind of coat / light jacket at school. We always suggest that a coat with a hood is the most sensible option. Again, can we remind parents to label coats with their child's names. This will mean it is easier to return coats to their owner if they do get left outside. The children are always reminded to collect their coats/ drinks bottles at the end of a lunchtime - but you would be amazed by the number of items that end up in our lost property box.

Lunches

Children in Robins and Woodpeckers - YR, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free school dinner. Their menu choices should be booked through ParentPay. The meal choices for children in Y3-Y6 should also be booked through ParentPay. There are three meal choices each day. Meals can be booked in advance, but should be booked before 8.00am of the morning they are required. If meals are not booked for children, we cannot promise their preferred meal will be available.

If children would prefer to have a packed lunch, we do encourage a healthy lunchbox. We discourage children having chocolate or crisps in their lunchboxes. I have enclosed a link to the NHS website where there are lots of suggestions for healthy lunchboxes.

Again we request that all lunchboxes and drinks bottles are labelled with your child's names. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your children are able to open the containers that are sent to school. We have four midday supervisors - but children can get frustrated when they have to wait to have containers opened for them.

We encourage all children to have a drinks bottle at school. We believe that the most refreshing and healthiest drink for children is water. Drinks bottles can be refilled in school from the tap in the wet area.

Squash is not banned at Hope Brook - but we are following advice from the British Dental Association - who ask schools to remind parents that the acid in squash (even no added sugar squash) erodes the surface of children's teeth. They are particularly concerned about children sucking on squash from drinks bottles - and are keen to distinguish this practice from having a cup of squash with an evening meal.

Snack time

We have a snack time every morning, before morning break (approx. 10.45am). All children in Robins and Woodpeckers are offered a free piece of fruit. We encourage the children to try the fruit. Children in KS2 are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack for this time. Again, we discourage the eating of crisps or chocolate during the snack session. Fruit is often available to children in KS2 - but we cannot guarantee this.

The children are also encouraged to have a drink at this time. Milk is provided for the under 5's free of charge. Milk can be ordered through 'Cool Milk' if you wish your child to have a daily carton of milk. Please note that milk will need to be ordered via the Coolmilk website. The school does not have access to this provision.

www.coolmilk.com/register

Pencil cases

Pencil cases can be the cause of much distress in school. For this reason, we ask that only children in Years 5 and 6 have their own personal pencil cases. We strongly suggest that Year 5 and 6 pencil cases contain the basic equipment they need for school. All pencil cases will need to be an appropriate size to be stored in the children's trays, along with their books.

Personal items

A large part of a learning experience is learning how to share equipment, resources and toys. For this reason, we ask children to leave their personal items at home (with the exception of the items stored in Y5/6 pencil cases).

Bags

Children in KS2 often like to bring a bag to school - to transport reading materials and homework. The children often choose to use a backpack for this purpose. Please could we ask that you are mindful of the size of your child's bag if they choose to bring one to school. We have very limited storage facilities in school. Any bags will need to be able to be stored on their coat hook.

KS1 use their book bags for this purpose and therefore do not need an additional bag. Book bags will be travelling from home to school on a daily basis.

End of day arrangements

Children can be collected from the lower playground at the end of the school day. The gates are opened by school monitors at approximately 3.10pm. We ask parents to gather on the playground rather than gathering around the classroom doors - so teachers are able to ensure children leave with their appropriate adults. To avoid congestion, Kestrels will exit the school via the library doors. Wagtails will leave their classroom dismissed from the hall doors.

Website

The website contains a lot of useful information and is regularly updated. It is worth becoming familiar with the organization of the website. The 'Our Learning' page contains particularly useful information for each of the classes. Here you will find out about the areas each class are studying. We aim to update these pages weekly - with photographs and information about your child's experiences. Our curriculum plans will be updated by the start of the new academic year - September 2023.

The other tab that you will find particularly useful this holiday, is the 'Reading' tab. Under this tab you will find information about this year's Summer Reading Challenge which is organized by the libraries. You will also find some really helpful book lists of recommended reads for each year group. The lists are collated by the LoveReading4schools team. They have cleverly linked this website to a bookstore so you can see a synopsis of the books and sometimes an extract of the book - and then you can purchase the book if you wish to.

We all hope you have a lovely summer holiday. The children have made fantastic progress. They have worked so hard and have many achievements that they can be proud of - whether that has been moving up a reading level, becoming a member of a sporting team, joining a club or being a good friend. Hope Brook is a lovely place to learn.

Find time to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends - and stay safe.

Stephanie Severn