

Hope Brook News

Week ending: October 25th 2019

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The winter weather looks likely to set in next term so please be aware of snow closure procedures if this is necessary.

**Hope Brook C of E
Primary School**

Church Road
Longhope
Gloucestershire
GL17 0LL

Phone: 01452 830558
Fax: 01452 831139

E-mail:
admin@hopebrook.
gloucs.sch.uk

Dear Parents, Governors, Staff & Friends,

Another school term is drawing to a close and there has been lots to celebrate—our 'Meet the Teacher' evening, the phonics evening for parents, our Harvest Service and an interesting assembly where we met so many of your pets.



Another student has joined the Hope Brook teaching team. Mr Jed Martin is a PGCE student at Gloucestershire University. He studied journalism and creative writing for his main degree, at Falmouth University. When I asked him for an interesting fact about himself, he told me he spent last summer in Cyprus, working on a turtle conservation project. That definitely sounded interesting to me. Mr Martin will be based in Wagtails until Christmas.

Many of you will have noticed that the fencing around the front of Pippins has now been completed. This will provide an additional outside space for the children at Pippins. It will be exciting to see how this space develops over the next year. Can I remind parents

that the safest way to access Pippins is via the paths. I have become increasingly worried about young children leaving Pippins via the driveway. The vision around that corner is very limited. Vehicles are unable to see people, particularly children, when they enter, or leave, the site. Please help us to ensure children are safe on the Hope Brook site.



25th October 2019

Diary Dates - Autumn Term

Date	Event	Date	Event
Thursday 24th October 2019	Inset Day	Wednesday 4th December 2019	Experience Christmas at All Saints Church
Friday 25th October 2019	HALF TERM	Wednesday 11th December 2019	EYFS Nativity + KS1 Penguin Pete
Monday 4th November 2019	Children return to school	Thursday 12th December 2019	EYFS Nativity + KS1 Penguin Pete
Tuesday 5th November 2019	School photographs	Friday 13th December 2019	Theatre Visit—Robins and Woodpeckers
Wednesday 6th November 2019	Parents Evening	Monday 16th December 2019	Theatre Visit Y5&Y6
Monday 11th November 2019	Remembrance Service 10.30am	Thursday 19th December 2019	Xmas Lunch Xmas parties
Thursday 14th November 2019	Parents Evening	Friday 20th December 2019	Flu Immunisations
Friday 22nd November 2019	Non-uniform Day	Friday 20th December 2019	AM—School Council Event PM—Pippins Xmas party 3.15pm ASC Xmas party
Friday 22nd November 2019	Parents Session Reading at Home 2.15pm	Monday 6th January 2020	Children return to school
Friday 29th November 2019	Xmas Making Afternoon		

Good Work Awards

Well done to Bethany Lancett, Phoebe Goodfield and Jake Tilling who have all received a 'Perseverance Award' this term.

Remember, if our pupils work really hard and are presented with the cup five times during their time at Hope Brook - they get to keep it!



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Harvest Service

On Friday 4th October, our celebration for Harvest took place at All Saints Church. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who joined us for the service. It was great that so many friends and family members were able to join us. This year's service contained some lively songs but still maintained that important message about being grateful for everything we have—as we remember those who do not have the food we have on our tables.

We should also send a special message of thanks to Pippins who joined us for our Harvest event. Good job for learning the song and actions. They were the stars of the show.

Finally, can I say thank you for all the food contributions. They have been collected by the Forest Foodbank who were very grateful for the 4 large boxes of food we provided. Thank you.



Family Service—All Saints



On Sunday 13th October, the choir performed two songs in the Family Service for Harvest in church. The choir sang one modern Harvest song and one more traditional Harvest song. They sang 'Hooray for Harvest' which is a lively song with actions and this was followed by 'Lord of the Harvest'.

Many thanks to all the members of the choir who took part, and who were able to enjoy the Harvest loaf provided by The Forest Bakehouse.

Remembrance Service—School Hall

The next service we have to look forward to is our Remembrance Service, which will take place on Monday 11th November in the school hall. This is a more 'sombre' service when we are joined by members of The British Legion, to pay our respects to the servicemen and women who do such an amazing job in protecting our freedoms. We will be remembering those brave soldiers who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, and pay particular regard to the members of our local community who did not return, through our traditional roll call. This service is always well attended by the local community but we are aware that this service can be difficult for younger children. (Some resources will be available in Robins if required.)

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Attendance

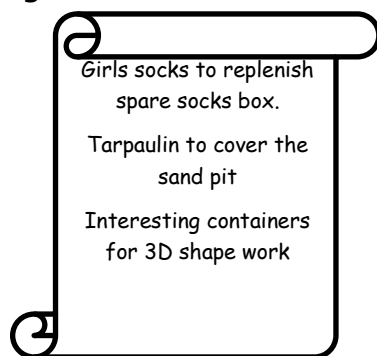
Class	Attendance	Total days missed
Robins	97%	26
Woodpeckers	97.2%	26
Wagtails	99.8%	8
Kingfishers	97.1%	32
Kestrels	97.6%	28

We have always been very proud of our attendance—but we have to be realistic and recognise that our attendance has been slipping over the last few years. Following a conversation with the governors, we are planning to monitor attendance patterns a little more closely. As part of this, we will be sharing with the children our class attendance rates each week. This will happen during Friday's celebration assemblies. As a starting point, here are the figures for the last term.

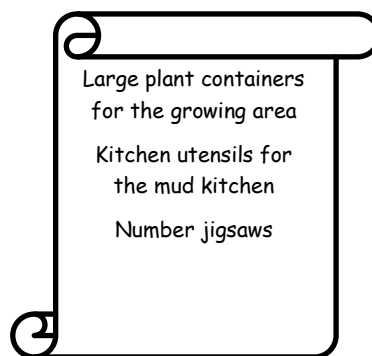
Well done, Wagtails.

Lateness

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention lateness. Again, most pupils always arrive at school on time and are ready to start their lessons at 8.55am. Of course we understand that, occasionally, things happen that are unavoidable. This message is for the handful of pupils that regularly arrive at the last minute and mean that classes are unsettled at the start of the day. It is surprisingly disruptive when a child is late into class, particularly younger pupils who find it more difficult to sort themselves out and need additional support to get organised. This inevitably means the teaching assistants are then distracted from the work they are supposed to be doing at that time.



Can you help?
Robins are looking for the following items.



Primary School Admissions

If you have a child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016, you will be considering how to apply for a place at primary school. The following dates outline the process for this year:

From November 2019	Letters sent out explaining how to apply for a school place. If you are a Gloucestershire resident and you still have not received a letter by December 2019 please contact co-ordinated admissions
From 4 November 2019 to 15 January 2020	Online application facility open
Wednesday 15 January 2020	Closing date for all applications

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