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Stephanie Severn (Mrs.) – Head Teacher

Hope Brook Update - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

It is such a relief that many of the staff have been able to return to work. We started the week with 10 members of staff off work. Now we are awaiting the return of 4 people. I am so pleased that staff have recovered but know that they are still experiencing the after effects of the illness. In order to allow the teachers time to recover and ease their workload, I have made the decision that we will not be posting an Easter Service this year. I believe that our focus for the next week needs to be ensuring our children have an undisturbed week where their routines are consistent and they can get back to enjoying their learning.

Following a recent Governors meeting, it was felt it would be useful to reflect on the experiences we faced at school over the last three weeks. The idea of this task is firstly to increase parental awareness of the challenges we have faced in recent weeks and, secondly, to reflect on any ways we could have handled the challenges differently. These reflections will be shared with parents before the end of term.

#### Design a Flag Competition

Today, we have told the children about an exciting competition that is being organised by Longhope Parish Council. They would like members of Longhope community to design a flag commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - 70 years of service. The winning design will then be made into a flag that will fly above the recreation ground. Anybody can submit a design. This is the information we have shared with the children:

- The design should relate to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- The design can be done at home or in school
- Designs can be individual or group designs
- Designs must be on A3 paper
- Designs must be handed in by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (4 weeks)

If you would like to submit a design as a family, we welcome those contributions. All contributions will be collected by your child/children's classteacher. Please ensure that your contribution is named on the back of the design. We will be giving the children a sheet of A3 paper to bring home - at the end of next week.

### Djembe Workshop

On Thursday afternoon, Kestrels are going to experience an African drumming workshop. During the last term, Kestrels have been learning about the physical and human geography of Africa. They have discovered an impressive amount of information about this continent - and some of the children can name about half of the 52 countries in Africa. I am sure they will have a lot of fun experiencing the 'call and response' tasks on these fascinating instruments.

### Summer Uniform

After the Easter holidays, many of the children choose to wear a summer uniform as we look forward to longer days and balmy sunshine. Can I remind parents that during the summer season, we want to ensure our children continue to wear safe, sensible footwear that is appropriate for school activities - no open-toed sandals please.

### Nature Area

All the children have had the opportunity to explore the nature area now that it has been opened up. As well as continuing to help with the clearance of the space, the children are coming up with lots of ideas about how they want to use the space. They want signs, bug hotels, identification charts, sand pits, sensory gardens, zen areas and they are particularly keen to make a sensory path.

I hope you have a relaxing weekend as we look forward to the last week of this term.

Stephanie Severn