

Hope Brook News



**Week ending:
22nd March 2024**

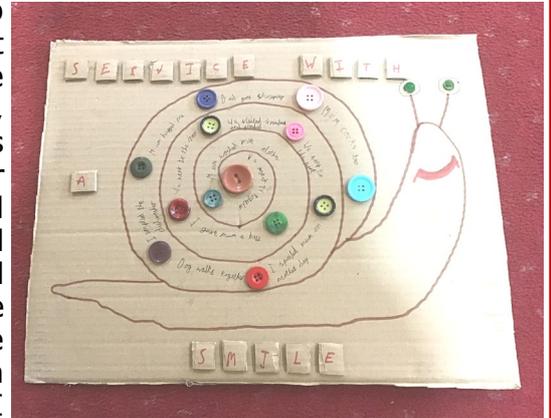
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Dear Parents, Governors, Staff & Friends,

What an action packed half term this has been! In just five weeks we have had so many exciting learning opportunities and adventures at Hope Brook School. From incredible sports successes to space adventures, Easter celebrations to singing extravaganzas, World Book Day to fundraisers, there is so much to share in the newsletter and I am so proud of all the efforts and achievements of the pupils at Hope Brook.

Our value this term as been Service and staff have seen so many examples of children helping and serving one another around school, for example supporting each other in their learning, giving a helping hand when someone is hurt on the playground or those little acts of service that mean so much like helping a friend zip up their coat or passing resources that are out of reach. As children have noticed acts of service around school, they have been placing glass pebbles into a dish and it hasn't taken long for the dish to overflow! A special well done must go to Joshua Leach and family, who took up the Home-School Values challenge and made a 'service snail' to record all the acts of service they shared as a family. Do keep an eye out for the next challenge which I will sending out after the holidays.



I was thrilled to have received two letters from the Minister for Schools, Mr Damien Hinds, congratulating us for our achievements in last years' national tests.

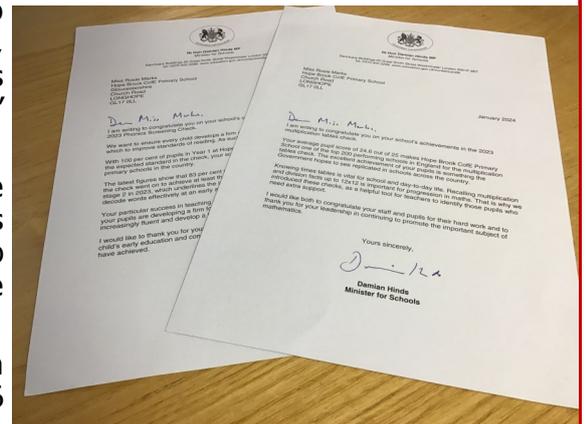
100% of our Year 1 pupils met the expected standard in the Phonics Screening Test, making us in the top 1% of all primary schools in the country.

For the Year 4 National Multiplication Checks, our average score was 24.6 out of 25 making us one of the top 200 performing schools in England.

As most of you will now have heard, I am delighted to be taking up the post of Headteacher from 3rd June. I am very excited to be involved in the next chapter of Hope Brook.

I wish all of you a very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing the children back in school ready to keep 'Growing Together with God's love to bring hope to the world' in the summer term.

Regards, Miss Marks



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Diary Dates

Date	Event	Date	Event
Monday 8 April	Back to School	Monday 3 June & Tuesday 4 June	Bikeability—Y6
Tuesday 9 April	Netball Finals	Wednesday 5 June	Cheltenham Science Festival for Y5 & Y6
Wednesday 17 & Thursday 25 April	Parents' Evening	Tuesday 13 June	Year 6 Leavers Service at Gloucester cathedral
Thursday 18 April	PQ Football Festival (Y3 & Y4) at Newent	Thursday 13 June	Class Photos
Monday 6 May	May Bank Holiday	Monday 24 — Friday 28 June	Dene Magna Induction Week
Friday 9 May	GPJ Soccer 7s at Newent School	Tuesday 2 July	Multi-Sports (GPJ) at Newent Community School
Mon 13 May—Friday 17 May	SATS week - Year 6	Friday 5 July	Sports Day
W/C 20 May	Arts Week	Tuesday 9 July	Year 6 Production (pm)
Friday 24 May	Term Ends	Wednesday 10 July	Year 6 Production (evening)
Monday 3 June	Back to School	Tuesday 16 July	Y6 Trip to West Midlands Safari Park & Y3 Trip to Bristol Aquarium
Wednesday 10 June	PQ Oracy Event at Hartpury College (evening)	Friday 19 July	Leavers Service for Y6 Parents Last Day of Term

We hope an overview of events in the year is helpful and will try to stick to these dates as closely as possible. However, there will inevitably have to be some changes made for reasons we have not yet anticipated. Please check future newsletters for any changes or the calendar on our school website <https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/calendar/309901>

School Dinners Price Increase

Please be aware that from 8th April, the price for a school lunch will rise to £2.71 for pupils and pre-school children. These prices are set by Gloucestershire County Council. The new Spring/Summer Menu is available to book on ParentPay.



If you believe that you may be eligible for free school meals, please visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free->

Spring/Summer School Uniform

With the weather hopefully warming up on our return after the Easter break, our school uniform can include tailored shorts and gingham summer dresses. For safety reasons we ask that children continue to wear shoes rather than open toe sandals.



As we move through the summer term, the children are welcome to bring in sun cream to apply at lunchtime. Please ensure they bring cream in a named bottle.

Swimming Awards

The children have worked so hard in their swimming lessons this term and they should be proud of their achievements. Well done to Bonnie Milsome-Tovey for achieving her 10 metre award and to Dexter Hill, Stanley Beard, Jack Batt and Eva-Rose Essex Teague for achieving their 5 metre badge.



There will be no more swimming until September 2024.

Little Princess Trust

Earlier this term, Izzy had 11 inches cut from her hair and donated it to The Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children who are suffering with hair loss as a result of cancer treatment.

Well done Izzy for living out our vision and 'bringing hope to the world'.

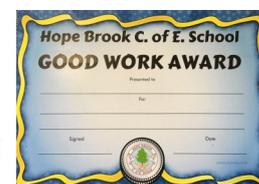


Good Work Awards

Each week children from each class may be given a 'Good Work Award' in our Friday celebration assembly. If your child gains five good work awards, please ask them to post them into the school letterbox (in the porch) before Wednesday so that we can award them with a Head Teacher's Award certificate and cup in the celebration assembly.

Congratulations to Lily Chelu, Amberley James and Oliver Lewis who have achieved a Head Teacher's Award this term.

If they work really hard and are presented with the cup five times in their time at Hope Brook - they get to keep it!



Young Voices

In February, we joined with Hartpury C of E Primary School (part of Primary Quest) to sing in the incredible Young Voices concert at The NEC in Birmingham.

The experience of singing in a choir of six thousand children in front of a filled arena was extraordinary and the atmosphere in the final concert was absolutely electric. We look forward to taking part again next year!



Space Evening

For our KS2 Space Evening we welcomed Mr Craig Stanton and his incredible space telescopes in to school and were lucky enough to be able to see Jupiter close up. The children were also taken on a journey through space in the Space Dome, kindly funded by the Friends of Hope Brook School.

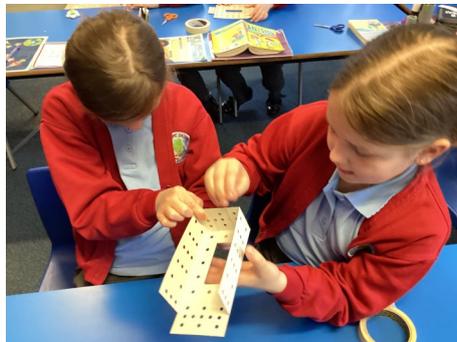
Back in the classrooms, there were plenty more space themed activities to try, including making vegetable prints of the relative sizes of the planets in our solar system to puzzling out the weight of a fizzy drink can on different planets and working out how craters were made on the moon.



STEM Moon Buggies

On 11th March, the Kingfishers were treated to a STEM Workshop to create moon buggies. They worked with a partner on the design of their product, giving careful consideration to the design features, such as the best type of tyre to move across the moon's surface. In addition to using their D & T skills, the children also had to put their mathematical and scientific skills to good use.

The children had fun creating their designs, especially when they raced their moon buggies in the hall.



Easter Service

Our Easter Service, in All Saints Church Longhope, was very well attended and the children did us proud as always. The children spoke about the meaning of Good Friday and Easter Sunday as well as how we can remember this when eating our Easter Eggs.

Kingfishers class firstly re-enacted the story of Easter and this was followed by Robins and Pippins singing an action song called 'God's not dead'. Woodpeckers then showed us a way that we can remember that Jesus wiped away our sins by using ink from a newspaper. Kestrels sang a very emotional song called 'Because' which reminded us of the importance of Jesus' sacrifice. Wagtails class then thought about how chocolate Easter Eggs can remind us of the importance of Easter Sunday: Jesus' tomb was a bit like the chocolate egg – with the big stone rolled against the tomb entrance, inside it must have been dark and cramped. It's as if the darkness makes it still Good Friday, the day that Jesus died. But on the first Easter day, Jesus came alive again, and burst out of the tomb. Good Friday is broken once and for all, and new life is set free. Just like when we break into the egg.

Our school vision is 'Growing together with God's love to bring hope to the world. In this story of Easter, we learn that God loved the world so much that he sent his son, Jesus to die so that his people may be saved. The resurrection of Jesus brings hope to the world. Our Easter service was finished by us all singing the rousing song 'On that first Easter'.



Red Nose Day

Thank you for your donations. We raised a grand total of £175 with a non-uniform day.



Experience Easter

In the final week of term, every class had a special RE lesson where they learnt more about the meaning of the Easter story for Christians and were given an opportunity to reflect on their own lives and journeys.

In the garden of Gethsemane, we thought about how Christians believe Jesus stood up for what is right, even though it was difficult and challenging for him and then reflected on the courage we need to stand up for what is right in our own lives.

We then moved onto the courtyard outside the house of Caiaphas, where Jesus was tried, and heard how his disciple, Peter, denied knowing Jesus three times before hearing the cockerel crow, just as Jesus had predicted. We reflected on how disappointed Peter must have felt in himself as we gathered around a campfire and then each put a stick in the fire to represent burning away our own disappointments.

The story moved on to consider forgiveness at the crucifixion and the joy of the disciples when they learnt that Jesus had risen from death at the tomb. At this point we looked at wildflower seeds and considered how, despite looking small, brown and life less, new life will burst from them. The children then planted their seeds in Pippins Patch and will look forward to seeing them bloom later in the year.

We ended the experience with an Easter egg hunt – a joyous celebration of the festival of Easter!



Netball Finalists

We had success in the sporting arena on 18th March when both our netball teams stormed to victory with outright wins in all games. Congratulations to Max, Oliver, Evelyn, Betsie, Gracie, Rory, Jess, Isabelle, Sam, Amelia, Theo, Daisy, Gwen, Olly and Evie. We wish them the very best of luck for the final on 9th April.

Many thanks to Mrs Matthews and Mrs James for coaching the children to victory. Thanks also to all the parents and guardians who came to support the teams.



Wildlife Quiz

We recently hosted our first round of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's annual wildlife quiz against Coalway. It was a nail biting afternoon as both teams did very well answering their questions, resulting in a tie. Isabelle, Lily, Gwen and Paisley all did brilliantly in the tiebreaker though and won! We are so proud of all of them and the wildlife club are working hard to prepare for the next round.



Football

The Girls' Indoor Football Final was held at Newent Community School on 20th March 2024. After putting in a valiant effort, the girls came 4th out of 33 teams in total in the Forest.

Many thanks to Sandy, India, Betsie, Isabelle, Gracie, Daisy, Gwen and Evelyn who put in a sterling performance.

Many thanks also to Mr Mark Yearley who supervised the girls at the event.



PQ Maths Competition Winners

On Tuesday 19 March, a small team of Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in a 24 game, PQ Maths Competition against six other schools. Hope Brook won with a total of 11 points with Hartpury in second place with 7 points.

Well done to Charlie Kay, Peter Jones, Sandy Stead and Rory White (and of course, Stirling Mason for practising hard alongside the team as our reserve member).



World Book Day

World Book Day was a little different for us this year! – Instead of dressing up as our favourite book characters we decided to



either make a top hat and decorate it with clues from our favourite book or take a potato and make it into a book character – Wow! – what creative minds Hope Brook families have – the products that the children brought in were so different and so inspiring – Thank you for all your input into highlighting the magic of reading to our children.

Author Visit

On Wednesday, 28th February, Ian Young, author of 'Cry of the Norwolf' and 'The Emerald Pendant' visited Hope Brook School where he gave an assembly to talk about his books. He also carried out some writing workshops with Kingfishers and Kestrels and set them a task of creating a new 'animal' character. Taking inspiration from his story, the children came up with mythical creatures, characters with attitude and many more. Many thanks to Ian whose personal journey to becoming an author seemed to strike a chord with a lot of the children.



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Grammar Schools Open Days

The local Grammar Schools are holding open days next term before the registration to sit the entrance test opens in May 2024. Our website has more information and links to the grammar schools' websites.

[Hope Brook CofE Primary School - Secondary/Grammar Schools](#)

Gloucestershire School Admissions

Gloucestershire School Admissions are in the process of recruiting volunteer Panel Members to assist with virtual School Admission Appeals. We are particularly in need of Parent Members (those with children currently in education).

Here's the link to the relevant page on the Gloucestershire County Council website:

[Apply to become a volunteer school appeals panel member | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

If you are interested and have any queries about this please contact the team on 01452 425492