

Hope Brook News



**Week ending:
October 27th 2023**

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Dear Parents, Governors, Staff & Friends,

What a wonderful term we have had at Hope Brook! The children and staff have certainly been living out our vision of 'Growing Together with God's love to bring hope to the world'. Thank you for the very warm welcome I have received from children, staff, parents and governors as interim head teacher – I am delighted to be leading such an incredible school!

It has been wonderful to see the children in Robins settling in so quickly to school life and growing in confidence every day as they explore and learn. The Pippins children have also really enjoyed learning alongside Robins class for some of the day – each time I visit their classrooms they are bursting to share with me all their exciting progress!

Throughout all the classes there have been so many amazing off-site learning opportunities this term – the Cheltenham Literary festival, local geography and science walks, swimming lessons, cross-country and hockey competitions, a visit to the Dean Heritage Centre and a wonderful trip to London for Kestrels and Kingfishers. All these opportunities have enhanced the curriculum and enabled children to bring their learning to life – read on to hear some reports from the children of their experiences. A huge thank you to all the staff for the extra time and effort they put into making these things happen.

Celebrating Harvest together as a community at All Saint's Church was a particular highlight of the term for me – the children were so impressive with their presentations and we were challenged to think deeply about how we can all bring hope to those who are hungry in locality and the wider world. Thank you to all the parents and families who were able to join us for this special time and for all the generous donations to the Forest Food Bank.

It was lovely to welcome families to our open day this week. Our children were a huge credit to the school, especially Kestrels who were superb ambassadors as they conducted the tours. The feedback from visitors was very positive.

Next term will be buzzing with more inspiring learning and all the joys that the Christmas season brings. We will continue to look to the example of Jesus as we grow together and seek new ways of showing his hope for a better future.

Miss Marks

October 2023

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Date	Event
Monday 6 November	Back to School	Monday 17 February	Back to School
Friday 10 November	Remembrance Service at school 10.30am. All welcome. Children to wear poppies please	Thursday 7 March	World Book Day
Wednesday 15 November	School Photographs Sibling groups with pre-school children from 8.30am	Friday 22 March	Easter Service at All Saints Church & Term Ends
Wednesday 15 & Tuesday 21	Parents' Evenings	Monday 8 April	Back to School
Friday 17 November	Children in Need Non Uniform Day Last Day for Christmas Jumper swap donations (see last page for more info)	Wednesday 17 & Thursday 25 April	Parents' Evenings
Friday 24 November	Christmas Jumper Swap day	W/c 13 May	SATS week - Year 6
Friday 1 December	Christmas Jumper Day and Making Afternoon	Friday 24 May	Term Ends
Wednesday 12	Nativity Dress Rehearsal (for Robins and Woodpeckers parents with younger children) 1.30pm	Monday 3 June	Back to School
Thursday 13 December	Nativity 1.30pm (parents only for Robins and Woodpeckers)	W/C 3 June	Bikeability Training for Y6
Wednesday 20 December	Christmas lunch & Christmas events	Wednesday 8 June	Brooklets Parents' Evening
Friday 22 December	Last Day of Term	Friday 5 July	Sports Day
Monday 8 January	Back to School	Wednesday 10 July	Year 6 Production (pm)
Friday 9 February	Last Day of Term	Thursday 11 July	Year 6 Production (evening)
		Friday 19 July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 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

We have a new dinner menu for this new term; which is available on the school website https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/school_lunches_/311726 and we hope that your children have been enjoying the new meals.

With Mrs Littlefair cooking to order over 70 meals each day, please could we ask you to help us by booking your child's lunch via ParentPay before the 8am cut off each day.

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-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/> to apply online.



Safety Notice



Please could we remind parents to be good role models by using paths and not walking on the driveway or cutting across the car park at school. The bend on our driveway is a blind spot for drivers and can be particularly risky for children and adults leaving Pippins. Using the paths is the safest practice. The children have been reminded that they should walk in and out of school, staying with their parents. We would also like to remind parents that there should be no parents' cars on site between 8.30am and 4.30pm. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe.

Lateness

Our school day starts promptly at 8.45am. Whilst we appreciate that the majority of children arrive before this time, any children who are late arriving can miss out on the first task of the day, and often unsettle the class as a result. Lateness after the registers are taken is classed by the Department for Education as unauthorised absence.

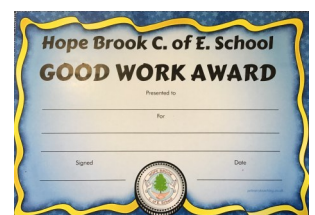
Thank you for your support in instilling a regular routine to ensure children are punctual for school.

Good Work Awards

Each week a couple of 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.

Well done to Eva-Rose Essex-Teague, Paisley James, Joshua Leach and Jack Batt 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!



Kestrels Trip to London

On Friday 22 September, Kingfishers and Kestrels departed at 6.30am for a day trip to London. Everyone was tired but excited for the trip.

Kestrels went to the London Eye first and waited patiently in the queue. There were amazing views from each corner of the pods. When we got off, we found a place to sit down and ate our lunch. The pigeons kept surrounding us but I didn't mind as long as they didn't eat my food! There was a street performer who was playing a lot of Ed Sheeran songs. After lunch we had time to play in the park which was fun!

We also went on a river cruise on the Thames. Our guide was called Rose and she was helpful and funny. We saw multiple bridges like the 'wonky bridge', the Shard, the Bolt, the London Eye and HMS Belfast that is now a museum. One of the best things we saw was Tower Bridge - it is really tall and when we went under it we waved to the people on the bridge. Rose told us that the Thames is actually one of the cleanest rivers. She said that "if you take some river water home and let it settle that it would turn in to clean, clear water". I found this fact amazing and was tempted to do so.

After that we stopped to sketch the Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben is the bell inside it) and then had some time to play in the park. One of my favourite things was the ice-cream that I bought.

The bus picked us up from the park with Kingfishers already on it. We were all a bit hungry from all the fun we had. We stopped at a motorway service station for food before arriving at school. We had a really good time but we were all very tired at the end of it.

Written by Gwen Stephens



Kingfishers Trip to The Tower of London

On Friday 22 September, Kingfishers and Kestrels arrived at school and boarded a coach. After about two hours' drive, we stopped at the services to have a snack and a drink. Then our journey took about another hour.

Before Kingfishers could leave the coach to go to The Tower of London, we dropped off Kestrels at the London Eye. The coach then made its way to the car park to drop us off -we walked to the ticket office where we collected our wrist bands.

We all walked into The Tower of London and found a place to sit and eat our lunches. After we finished, we made our way to meet up with an actress who had dressed up as Catherine Parr. She told us about all of King Henry VIII's wives at the time. The actress pretended that it was 1599 and King Henry had proposed to her. Whilst we were having a discussion about the wives, the actress led us to the place where Ann Boleyn and Katherine Howard were beheaded.

After we had our tour, we went to see the Crown Jewels. We saw the King's Royal Guards. When they are on duty, sometimes they march and shout. It's quite hard to understand what they say as the strap on their bear skin hat covers a bit of their mouth.

As we entered the Jewel House, we saw a display of golden cutlery - spoons, knives, forks and even plates. They were bigger than my head! We saw 10 or 11 royal trumpets with decorated pieces of fabric attached with golden thread. None of us could ignore the magnificent St Edward's Crown (the King's crown). There are many different jewels on it, such as rubies, diamonds and emeralds.

Next, we visited the Battlements. We saw war cannons that were used to attack other invading countries during war. We also saw a small display of guns that looked quite old but they were in fact years old! I noticed that quite a lot of the artefacts we saw had the same symbol.

Finally, we got back on the coach and picked Kestrels up. With a sigh of relief and hunger, we went into the services and had the choice of KFC or Burger King for our dinner. After a long, eventful day, we arrived back at Hope Brook School where our parents picked us up to take us home.

Written by Amelia Hodges



Cheltenham Literature Festival

We have been lucky enough this year to secure tickets for the Cheltenham Literature Festival for children in Years 1-6.

On Friday 6 October Kingfishers saw an author-illustrator in action. Jamie Littler engaged well with his audience and showed them how to draw the character 'Cinder' who features in his new book 'Arkspire'. When we returned to school, the children had fun sketching 'Cinder' for themselves using the method he had shown them. During the visit, we bumped into the Gruffalo too! We managed to introduce ourselves and take a quick snapshot. What a super day!



On Tuesday 10 October, Woodpeckers had great fun at Cheltenham Literature Festival. We explored the Waterstones Children's Bookshop and listened to a story being read. We worked as a team to complete a Moomin Trail where we used clues to answer questions. We all got a sticker at the end as we answered all the questions correctly. Later on, as we were eating our lunch, we had a visit from the Gruffalo - we just had to take a class photo! Finally, we got to enjoy the best part of our trip - a story and poem session with Michael Rosen. We were all very excited when he performed one of our class favourites: 'Chocolate Cake'.



On Tuesday 10th October, Wagtails visited the Cheltenham Literature Festival. The children enjoyed an engaging workshop led by the authors; Dom Colon and A.F. Harrold where they provided an insight into their new poetry book called Welcome to Wild Town. The workshop was full of laughter as the authors read and imitated a range of poems from their book that related to a variety of animals that live in Wild Town. After the workshop, the children explored different trails and book shops as well as having a class photo with the Gruffalo!



On Wednesday 11 October, with 1200 children in the audience, Kestrels class had an inspiring, lively talk by authors Phil Earle and Lesley Parr. They discussed how they had written their present and past books and what had inspired each one- including their pets and family members! Their most recent books are both historically based, Phil's being written in the war time - This was perfect inspiration - on return to school- for the writing of Kestrels own historical story based on an evacuee.



Wagtails Trip to The Dean Heritage Centre

On Tuesday 24th October, Wagtails class visited the Dean Heritage Centre. At the centre, the children participated in a variety of activities about habitats and microhabitats. The children explored what wildlife they could find in a pond at the centre by using a large net to pond dip.

Next, the children walked through the woods to an open area where they used magnifying glasses to identify minibeasts that were in their microhabitats. The children all enjoyed exploring and investigating what they could find hidden under wet leaves and sticks. After lunch, the children looked around the rest of the centre, going inside an old cottage and playing in the woodland adventure playground.



Hockey Tournament

On Tuesday 17 October, a group of Year 6 children took part in the Forest of Dean Quick Sticks Hockey tournament at Newent Community School.

Well done to Max Beard, Oliver Cruickshank, Charlie Kay, Isabelle Hysom, India Foran and Sam Sherratt on their performance.

Thank you to Miss Marks who supervised the team during the event and to Miss Marks and Mrs Sherratt for help with transport to and from the event.



Cross Country Event

Kicking off the sporting calendar, On Wednesday 5 October, we took two teams to the Cross Country Event at Five Acres. The Years 5 and 6 demonstrated a steely determination when they took part in the Team Cross Country Event. Well done, to Megan White, Daisy Jones, Evelyn Beard, Gracie Morris, Skye Smith, William Noble, Charlie Kay, Max Beard, Theo Lawrance, Oliver Cruickshank, Seb Royal and Sandy Stead.

A big thank you to Mrs Barnes and Mrs Collis who supervised the team during the event and to Miss Marks for driving the children there in the Hartpury Minibus and to the parents for collecting the children at the end of the event.



October 2023

Harvest Service

It was great for the whole school community to come together and to see so many parents and friends at our annual Harvest Service in All Saints Church on 13 October.

Each class contributed with their own performance. After an introduction by Kingfishers, Wagtails informed the congregation about how harvest is celebrated around the world; Woodpeckers sang 'The Harvest Tango'; Kingfishers entertained with a play called 'We Are The Greatest'; being their first ever school performance, Robins sang 'Thank You Farmer'. Rounding off the Festival, Kestrels gave a beautiful recital of 'When We See The Harvest' by Susan Nikitenko.



The Forest Food Bank have asked us to pass on their gratitude for your generous donations.



School Eco Council

The Eco Council are arranging a Christmas Jumper Swap.

Please bring any Christmas jumpers that are too small for any of your family members any time after half term, but the latest is 17th November.

Swap day is on the 24th November, in readiness to wear 'new' jumper on Friday 1st December during our Christmas Craft afternoon.



Poppy Appeal

We will have Royal British Legion Poppy merchandise available each morning from Monday 6 November to Friday 10 November. Please pop into the school reception area. Suggested donations £1 for the children's snap bands. Adult pins badges and lanyards also available.

