



Hope Brook News

Week ending: November 29th 2019

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Friday 20th

December

9.30am

Flu

Immunisation
session for the
whole school.

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Dear Parents, Governors, Staff & Friends,

December is almost upon us! I know that is hard to believe—and it means we are just about to enter the season that excites children most of all.

As you would expect—there is a lot to look forward to. The Christmas post office, the nativity performances, the talent show, Christmas dinner, Christmas parties and some year groups are looking forward to their trips to the pantomime.

Many of you will have noticed we are not holding a carol service this year. The end of term falls very close to Christmas this year and we have listened to the comments from parents who felt the children did too many activities around the end of the Christmas term. Although we are not holding a carol service, we are working closely with the church community in preparing for the Crib Service that is held on Christmas Eve. We look forward to seeing you there.

I should mention this year's nativity event as we are trying something different this term. The nativity performances take place on the 11th and 12th December. They start at 1.30pm which is a little earlier than usual. The plan is - at 1.30pm, pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 will perform a winter play called 'Penguin Pete' which will last about 40 minutes. This will be followed by a 'Cream tea' interlude. Parents who are attending will be offered the opportunity to have a cream tea (at a cost of £2) while the choir sing some carols they have prepared for the event. This will be followed by a performance of a Christmas play with a nativity scene, called 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' which will be performed by YR and children who attend Pippins. There is a lot of excitement in school as the children are learning the songs and have their first experience on a stage.

Tickets for this event will be available from Tuesday 3rd December. Tickets will cost £3 per seat, with an additional charge of £2 for an optional cream tea (scone, jam and cream + tea, coffee or squash). Please can we remind parents that if you wish to bring pre school-aged children, we would be grateful if they could attend the performance on 11th December.

29th November 2019

Diary Dates - Autumn Term

Date	Event	Date	Event
Friday 29th November 2019	Xmas Making Afternoon	Thursday 19th December 2019	Xmas Lunch Xmas parties
Wednesday 4th December 2019	Experience Christmas at All Saints Church	Friday 20th December 2019	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 11th December 2019	EYFS Nativity + KS1 Penguin Pete	Friday 20th December 2019	AM—School Council Event PM—Pippins Xmas party 3.15pm ASC Xmas party
Thursday 12th December 2019	EYFS Nativity + KS1 Penguin Pete	Monday 6th January 2020	Children return to school
Friday 13th December 2019	Theatre Visit—Robins and Woodpeckers	w/b Monday 10th February 2020	Readathon Week
Monday 16th December 2019	Theatre Visit Y5&Y6	Friday 14th February	Last day of Half Term

Good Work Awards

Well done to Ellie Hayward and Isaac Lawrance who have both 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!



An Apology



We realise that we have had to change several arrangements this term, including cancelling after-school activities and some events. Please be assured that these cancellations could not be avoided. We are always reluctant to cancel events but there are times when it cannot be helped. We will always notify parents when events have to be cancelled via our eschools message system.

Remembrance Service—All Saints

As part of the Remembrance Service on 10th November 2019 at All Saint's Church, pupils from Kingfishers read out their own poignant war poems.

The following day, Hope Brook invited The Royal British Legion, servicemen and women from our Armed Forces, parents, carers and grandparents to attend our own special Remembrance Service. With a thoughtful, reflective service, an act of remembrance was observed to honour the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces and the civilian servicemen and women involved in World Wars and later conflicts.

Afterwards, a procession was led by The Royal British Legion down to the memorial stone where a wreath and poppies were placed by the children in Robins class.



Hockey Tournament



On Tuesday 11th November 2019, two teams from Hope Brook took part in the Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament at Newent School. It was certainly a bit of a chilly afternoon but both teams played amazingly well. As a result both teams, the team from Pool A and the team from Pool B, ended up winning bronze medals. What an achievement. Well done all of you.

School Office

Many of you will have met our new School Business Manager, Alison McGinley. It has been a very busy start for Alison. As always, our school office is a crazy, busy hive of activity. In an attempt to ensure the smooth running of the office, you will have noticed a few changes. Blank lunch menus and forms for booking Breakfast Club and After School Club have been made available from the windows at the front entrance. Once forms have been completed, they should be given to pupils to hand in to their classteacher. It is perhaps helpful to remind parents that this is the system we use at Hope Brook. All letters and slips, and cash (on the rare occasion we collect cash in school) should be handed into the classteacher by the pupils. We are keen to encourage independence at Hope Brook—and our office cannot function effectively when they are managing these sorts of tasks. We are planning to trial a system of booking lunches, breakfast club and after school club via parent pay from January. We hope this will ease a lot of pressures currently placed on office staff. Please be assured that our aim is to improve systems. Currently, we are experiencing a number of people queueing at the front office. We want to make sure our systems minimise the need to speak to somebody in the office so they can deal with emerging urgent issues.

A message from the Chair of Governors

School improvement is a continual process for the staff and governors at Hope Brook, but certain times of the school year are associated with specific activities. At the start of the school year we implement the annual School Development Plan which has been drawn up in late summer. We had great results in the Year 6 SATs last year, but our first priority this year is to improve standards in early years/Year 1. Our aims are to ensure all pupils in Year 1 are working at least at age-related expectations by the end of the year and to establish stories, songs and rhymes in pre-school to ensure children coming into reception are ready for that great adventure. Secondly, we are revisiting the core subjects, especially English. Several years ago we established the new primary curriculum. This was generally successful; in fact, we received recognition from the local authority for the way in which we did it. However, through our data review processes, we have noticed that standards in the early years could be stronger and writing seems to be slightly weaker than other core subjects. To overcome this, we are focussing on phonics skills and attainment of improved writing skills. We are also conducting a review of the curriculum to ensure we know the specific focus of our topics. The aim is for pupils to enjoy the topics and show they are extending their knowledge and skills. As ever, one aim is to improve parental engagement and we will be monitoring parental attendance at support and information sessions. We will analyse questionnaire data to ensure that parents' responses indicate they take a positive view of these sessions. Finally, we are also very keen to ensure that pupils and staff recognize the importance of well-being and want to ensure children realise how they can support themselves to feel stronger mentally. We have staff and systems in place to help with this and will be promoting these to pupils and checking that they are well utilised. All these initiatives are underway; they will be monitored throughout the year and I will report back on them in due course. As we head towards the end of term, on behalf of the Governors, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. You can always contact me on: chair@hopebrook.gloucs.sch.uk.

Justin Cook, Chair of Governors

Can you help?

Robins Wanted List

- Dressing up clothes
- Old scarves and hats for pretend play
- Large plant pots for Outside Area
- Ground sheet for covering Sandpit
- Bamboo canes
- Play Dough cutters
- Old saucepans or kitchen utensils
- Wooden train track
- Bag of topsoil
- Attractive boxes/containers from Christmas



Replenishing Spare Clothes Boxes:

- Socks for boys and girls
- PE shorts

The Friends of Longhope Church & Longhope PCC are proud to present:



A professional pantomime by the Odd Socks performers. With a great script that features a fabulous musical score your children will love!

6pm Friday 3rd January 2020 at Longhope Church.

Tickets £5 includes refreshments
Contact: Tina 01452 831235 or Longhope School: Parentpay



Are you interested in helping the Hope Brook PTA? A meeting for anybody interested in taking part in the formation of a new PTA are invited to meet at Hope Brook School on Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm.

