

Hope Brook News

**Week ending:
December 17th
2021**

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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,

What an end of term it has been! I hope the children have come home full of the things they have been doing in school—the decorations they have made, the Christmas lunch, the Christmas parties and of course the Cup Competition.

Details of the winners of the Cup Competition can be found on Page 4 but I did want to say a personal thank you for the effort everyone made with the cups. We had 98 entries and the creativity and originality of the designs was staggering to see. The judging proved to be incredibly difficult. Our first selection of possible competition winners resulted in 30 cups being chosen!! It was impossible to only choose 3 winners—so we selected a winner per class (+ Pippins) - 6 winners—and from those 6 we chose an overall winner. We have also selected 5 cups that were particularly unique in their design and they have received a small prize too. Finally, we decided to award a family prize—to a family that made a fantastic effort with their cups. This was a very close call between 3 families—but eventually we decided this prize should be awarded to the Harris family (Francesca, Tilli, Leoni and Kenny). Congratulations to all the winners—but thank you to everyone who took part. The cups formed a fantastic display in our main corridor.

Before this term ends, I felt I should provide an update on Mrs Blackman. It is looking as if she will probably not be well enough to return in January. We are sending her our best wishes and hope that she starts to feel better soon. Luckily, Mrs Fursdon has agreed to continue working in Woodpeckers on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Fursdon has settled in very quickly at Hope Brook and has become a valued member of the Hope Brook team.

Finally, I should probably mention the continuing developments in the coronavirus situation. We are all looking forward to the Christmas festivities and hope that we manage to control the spread of the new variant. I know all of you will do your part to be safe and sensible. Please be assured that plans are in place whatever the situation at the start of January. We are prepared for every eventuality and will let you know if any arrangements need to change at the start of the new term.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and we look forward to starting a new term on Wednesday 5th January 2022.



Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year

December 2021

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Date	Event
Monday 4 January	INSET Day	Monday 25 April	Back to School
Wednesday 5 January	Back to School Swimming for some Y4/Y5 /Y6	W/c 9 May	SATS week - Year 6
Monday 10 January	Sports Hall Challenge at Dene Magna	Monday 16 May	Kestrels Visit to Gloucester Cathedral
Tuesday 19 January	New Age Kurling at Newent Community School	Monday 30 May	Half Term Starts
Friday 4 February	Kestrels and Kingfishers trip to We the Curious	Monday 7 June	Back to School
Friday 18 February	Last Day of Term	Wednesday 8 June	Brooklets Parents' Evening
Monday 28 February	Back to School	Wednesday 15 June	Y6 Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral
Tuesday 15 & Wednesday 23 March	Parents' Evenings	Friday 8 July	Sports Day
Sunday 27 March	Mothering Sunday Service at All Saints Church	Tuesday 12 July	Year 6 Production (afternoon)
Tuesday 29 March	Woodpeckers Visit to Gloucester Cathedral	Wednesday 13 July	Year 6 Production (evening)
Friday 8 April	Term Ends	Thursday 21 July	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>

Swimming Lessons (Y4/5/6) —Spring Term

We have arranged some additional swimming lessons for the Spring Term—as many of the children missed out on their swimming lessons last year. In line with the National Curriculum requirements for swimming in primary schools, we aim to ensure that all our pupils can swim at least 25m. We plan to take a large group of children for the initial swimming session so the children can be assessed by the swimming experts. Following the assessments, a smaller group will attend the rest of the lessons. The lessons will take place on Wednesday mornings—so will start on the first day back!

School Dinners

The Caterers have extended the Autumn Menu until February half term, a copy of which is available on the school website https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/school_lunches_/311726.

With Mrs Littlefair cooking to order over 70-80 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.



Christmas Decorations

The school is looking very festive following the Christmas Making Afternoon. The children seemed to really enjoy the relaxed afternoon, making various decorations. Thank you to Mr & Mrs Mooney for donating the Christmas Trees for school and Pippins again this year.

For more pictures, please visit the class pages on our website.



Robins trees
Woodpeckers Wreaths



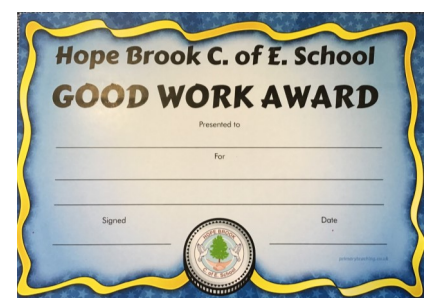
Wagtails trees and
pom pom heads

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 Georgie Williams, Jasmine Jeavons, Isaac Lawrance, Joshua Leach, Annabel Sanders, Oliver Cruickshank, Skye Smith, Ruby Hill, Evelyn Beard, Lennon Compton, Noah Jeavons, Izzy Baker, Toby Hayward, Bobby Stead, Gwen Stephens, Freya Vincent and Zach White who have all 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!



Christmas Cup Competition

Wow! We know we have talented and creative children at Hope Brook, but the standards of entries has exceeded our expectations. The judging was very difficult (as you can imagine) - Congratulations to the following winners: Toby D(Kestrels), Florence (Kingfishers), Oakley (Wagtails), Harley (Woodpeckers), Dexter (Robins) and Theo (Pippins). The overall winner was Toby with his Santa on a helter skelter.



PTA

Thank you to everyone who came along to the PTFA film night (and to the parent helpers!). We raised just over £400 which will be put to good use in the new year. We don't know yet which events can go ahead in early 2022. Thanks for your support this year, and Merry Christmas from the PTFA. Please follow our Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/hopebrookptfa>) for up to date news.



Harvest Food Bank

The Forest Foodbank have thank you for your Harvest Donations— a total of 104.45kg of food in total!



The Poppy Appeal & Children in Need

Thanks to your donations, we have contributed £201.54 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year and the non uniform day raised a total of £78 to Pudsey's Piggy Bank this year.



Christmas Post Office

The Christmas Post has been busy again this year and we have raised £57.25 to send to the [Starlight Charity](#) who support seriously ill children to make the experience of illness and treatment better for them and their families.



Eco Council Competition

The Eco-Council would like to challenge the Children of Hope Brook to use their Christmas rubbish to make something else. You could use anything like cardboard boxes, plastic casing, Christmas cards or wrapping paper as some examples.

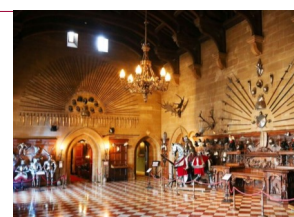
There are three challenges all together and in January the Eco-Council will give out some certificates for winning entries. Challenge 1 is to make an animal house, shelter or feeder. Challenge 2 is to make a game to play, maybe a board game or card game. The final challenge is to use wrapping paper or Christmas cards to create some Origami.

You can take part in as many challenges as you would like. To enter, simply send in a photo to School via email or directly send them to Miss Kay using the Messages tabs on your E-School accounts.

Warwick Castle Trip

On Monday 6 December, children in Year 1 and Year 2 went to Warwick Castle. Despite the cold and rainy day, they had a great time.

Please visit the Woodpeckers class page on our website: [Woodpeckers Class Page](#) to see pictures of the day.



Christmas Parties



Decorating Biscuits Competition

The children have been busy on the last morning of term decorating their biscuits before eating them after morning break. Well done to the following class winners: Robins—Jack
Woodpeckers—Lola Wagtails—Martha
Kingfishers—Lydia Kestrels—Freya

