

Hope Brook News

**Week ending: April
2nd 2021**

Dear Parents, Governors, Staff & Friends,

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Welcome to the second newsletter of this academic year. I hope you have found the weekly update letter a useful way of keeping up with events during lockdown. We will continue with the weekly update—but will also re-introduce the newsletter so we can share all the exciting things that happen during a school day. The newsletters and the weekly update letter will continue to be posted on the home page of our website. We recommend that you keep an eye on the website which is regularly updated with useful 'bits' of information and of course the class pages will keep you up to date with what has been happening in each of the classes. These pages are updated weekly—so look out for pictures of your children hard at work.



The photos on this page provide an idea of what the school looked like on the children's return. We filled the school with bunting and signs to welcome the children back. We wanted the children to know how pleased we were that school was returning to some kind of normality. Our thanks go to Mrs Goodfield who provided a massive bag of bunting for the occasion. The school looked terrific.

The children have made a fantastic return to school. They have caught up with their friends and have settled back into learning. They have been amazing. They are used to the one-way system, the additional cleaning, the new classroom layouts and eating lunch in their classrooms. Children are incredibly resilient. They never cease to amaze me. It looks as if the current organisation of the school will remain in place for a bit longer—and at the moment we are advised not to organise any events with audiences. We will keep reviewing this situation as the lockdown restrictions ease.

Despite the restrictions, we are looking creatively at how we can ensure the children enjoy everything school life can offer. On Thursday, we marked the 'Clap for Children' event by gathering on the Recreation Ground and celebrating the strength and resilience of our children. As you may have seen on the local news, schools across Gloucestershire celebrated this event at 12pm on 4th April. It was sad we could not invite parents to share the moment—but important that we showed the children that we recognise the challenges they have faced this year.



1 April 2021

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Date	Event
Thursday 1 April	Reflections on the Easter Story—online Term Ends	Monday 14-Friday 18 June	Years 5 and 6 Residential Trip to the Isle of Wight
Monday 19 April	Back to School	Wednesday 23 June	YR NHS Health Screening
Monday 31 May	Half Term Starts	Friday 2 July	Sports Day—We have kept this date in the diary but are unsure what it will look like this year
Monday 7 June	Back to School	Tuesday 20 July	Last Day of Term

School WebsiteCalendar <https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/calendar/309901>

Breakfast and After School Club

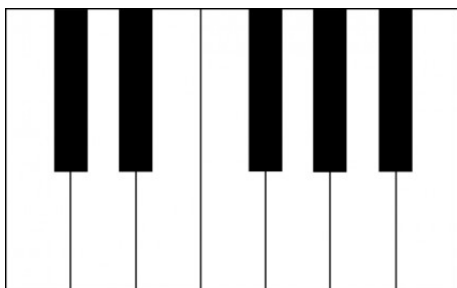
The Governors have increased the capacity at Breakfast and After School Club to 15 children each session. Families who book regular slots have been contacted and we are fully booked for Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

The Governors have decided that ad-hoc bookings cannot be accepted during the summer term; we hope that we will be back to normal provision from September.

Music Lesson Opportunities

If your child (Year 2 upwards) is interested in starting lessons in September, please e-mail admin@hopebrook.gloucs.sch.uk for more information.

We have weekly visits from a piano and clarinet teacher.



School Dinners

The menu for the summer term is available on the school website https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/school_lunches_/311726

From 19th April, the cost of a School Lunch increases by 2 pence to £2.34 per day. Thank you for using the booking system 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-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/> to apply online.

Safety Notice

Please could we remind parents to maintain the social distancing requirements of 2m when entering and leaving school.

Children have been reminded that they should walk in and out of school and that scooters/bicycles should be pushed once inside the school gates. We would also like to remind parents that there should be no cars on site between 8.30am and 4.30pm, and no dogs brought onto the school site. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe.



Red Nose Day

We certainly did something funny for money this year. Children's jokes were written onto paper red noses and displayed in the classroom windows, and corridors and around the school and playgrounds.

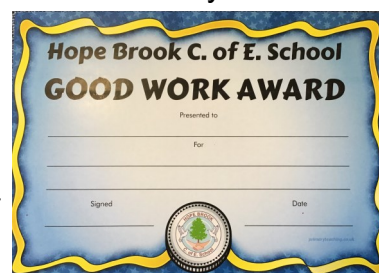
Thank you for the donations, we raised £105.

**COMIC
RELIEF**

Good Work Awards

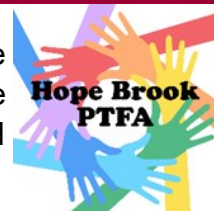
Each week, a couple of children from each class may be given a 'Good Work Award' in our online Friday celebration assembly. If your child gains five good work award certificates, please ask them to post them into the school letterbox on Mondays, so we can award them with a Head Teacher's Award certificate and cup to bring home at the end of each week.

Well done to Corey Easton, Joshua Goodfield, Peter Jones and Harry Reed who have achieved a Headteacher'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! Congratulations to Bethany Lancett, Milly Kujawa and Molly Kujawa who have just achieved their 5th Headteacher's Award and have received their cups to keep.



PTFA

Thank you for your support! The Christmas tea towels were great – who knew we had such talented children?! - and raised a very respectable £415. We were amazed by the quality and quantity of prizes donated for the Christmas raffle and raised a whopping £1073



The next PTFA meeting will be in the coming weeks; keep an eye on the Facebook page for details if you'd like to come along. The PTFA has been quiet for a while but we hope to start planning some face-to-face events as soon as we're able... everyone's a bit Zoomed out at the moment... If you have ideas or requests for activities and events, we would love to hear from you.

Before the latest lockdown the children were having a great time in consultation with Mrs Severn and we can't wait to start ticking off their play equipment wish-list.

Please share your skills and your fundraising ideas! Can you build a bench or are you a super bingo caller or sponsored runner? Email hopebrookptfa@gmail.com

A big thank you to Mrs Nora Powell.

For years Mrs Powell has worked in Robins Class as a Helper. She has brought her many talents into the setting. These have included being our Tricky Word Master; a seamstress for all the never ending costume repairs, as well as designing and making many costumes for specific topics; creating displays, making cakes as well as Maths and English resources ... the list goes on and on. She has shown support and care for the children and staff alike.

During Lock Down Mrs Powell made these items for our current topic "Celebrations". The children love them and can't wait to be able to use them in their play. Thank you Mrs Powell for being such a blessing to Robins Class.



1 April 2021

Governors

Introduction to a new Governor at Hope Brook

Hello, my name is Matthew Gacek and I am Hope Brook's newest governor having been appointed a Foundation (Church) governor in February of this year. I am excited to be joining a team of governors, teachers and ancillary staff dedicated to making your child's early educational journey as happy and fulfilling as possible.

For most of my working career I was a primary school teacher as well as being involved, in many different ways, in talking to children about the Christian faith.

Last week I attended my first governor induction training, and it was interesting finding out a little about the background to my new role and one of the points made was that of communication.

When entrusting your child to others there will always be occasions when you have queries, you want to pass on information, or you are upset about something. The school has various methods to deal with all these points and it is so important to engage with the school properly so that any of the above can be dealt with efficiently, correctly and with sympathetic understanding.

One of the main ways that the school communicates general information to you is via the school website. It contains information about so many aspects of the school's life. For instance, my profile, along with other governors, is available to see. There is a procedure for sharing your worries. It shows what curriculum your child will be taught. It has a range of policies to view, from inclusion and well-being to behaviour and bullying. It has photos of school activities and an up to date calendar of school events. Why not take a look at it and explore some of its many facets.

When things start to get back to normal, I am looking forward to getting back into Hope Brook to be part of you and your child's school experience.

Would you like to be a Governor?

What does a school governor do?

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children.

Being a school governor is a commitment to attending governing body meetings which consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk and scrutinising educational outcomes. They are also involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the headteacher and senior leaders. (Governorsforschools.org)

Next term, we will be advertising for a parent governor. If you are interested in the role, you can find more information at the following website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/governors

At Hope Brook, Governors meetings are held on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. Currently the meetings are held by zoom and tend to last 1½ - 2hours.