



Hope Brook Church of England Primary School
Church Road
Longhope
Gloucester
GL17 0LL
Tel: 01452 830558
Fax: 01452 831139
E-mail: admin@hopebrook.gloucs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Severn

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Dear Parents/Carers

What a week it has been! The children all seemed really excited to return to school after the summer holidays and they have all enjoyed being able to mix a little more freely. It has been fantastic to watch them playing outside and not being restricted by having to stick to their designated play spaces.

Our new children in YR seem to have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of starting school and Mrs Stanton has been very impressed by their good manners. You will remember from last year's messages - Mrs Stanton is now the class teacher in Robins and Mrs Marshall (nee Rowe) has reduced her hours to two days per week, working as our SENDco.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome two new members of staff - Mrs Danielle Christie, who will be teaching in Woodpeckers for the second half of the week and Mrs Suzanne Collis who will be working in Kingfishers and Woodpeckers. We hope they have enjoyed their first week at Hope Brook.

Entering and leaving school

It has felt very strange returning to our usual drop-off and pick-up arrangements. We have all become comfortable with the more regimented procedures we have had in place over the last 18 months and the more relaxed arrangements have felt a little confusing this week - but I am sure it will settle down.

At the start of the day, parents can escort their children to the classrooms if they wish to, but please don't feel you have to. As we have seen, the children have become very comfortable walking to their classrooms independently.

The end of the day has been slightly more problematic. Many of you will have seen how busy it has been by the small gate. We are trying to find ways to alleviate this congestion. For example, Kingfishers will leave school via the library door, which is the door in the middle of the lower playground, rather than leaving via their classroom door.

The Y5 (and Y6) children are able to leave their classrooms as soon as the bell goes. For the children in YR - Y4 we will always ensure that an appropriate adult is there to collect them. We always assume parents will pick up their youngest children first, so please be assured we will keep siblings with us until you collect them. Most people seem to find a place on the playground that is their usual collection point. The children and staff become familiar with where you usually stand - and this has always worked for us - I think.

School trips

We have lots of exciting trips planned for your children this year. I have tried to provide a simple overview so you know what to expect each term, but please be aware some of these visits are subject to change.

We tend to start school trips with YR when they are ready for that sort of experience so I haven't included YR on the chart below. We usually start with a small, local trip for YR which happens in the spring term, and hope to take them to Slimbridge in the summer term.

	Woodpeckers Y1/2	Wagtails	Kingfishers	Kestrels
Autumn	St Fagan's Warwick Castle	Dean Heritage Centre	Windsor Castle	Windsor Castle
Spring	Gloucester Cathedral	Highclere House	We the Curious	We the Curious
Summer	Wild Place Project(?) Merthyr Mawr (?)	Cotswold Wildlife Park	American Museum	Gloucester Cathedral West Midlands Safari Park

We aim to put the trips on Parent pay at the start of each term - to provide adequate time for financial contributions to be made.

Snacks

In school, we have been having a lot of conversation about what constitutes a healthy snack. We always encourage the children to eat a piece of fruit at snack time as we know this is a healthy choice for the children. We provide fruit for children in Robins and Woodpeckers and many children in KS2 bring in fruit for snack time. Some children choose to bring in alternative food choices - some of which are healthy choices and some that are less healthy. We are meeting as a staff next week to ensure that our messages about snack time are consistent.

Some reminders for next week:

- Our new Reception children will be joining us for lunchtimes next week. Can we remind parents to ensure they have booked lunches through our on line system before Monday. Monday's choice is vegetable hotdog, veggie meatballs with rice or jacket potato with cheese. There is no charge for lunches for children in YR
- If you order milk for your child, could you check that they still want this drink. We have had several cartons of milk left over this week
- Some after school sports clubs start next week for children in Y5 and Y6 - hockey on Tuesday and netball on Friday. There will be more clubs starting over the next couple of weeks. Messages about clubs will be sent via eschools
- Could we remind parents that their eschools app may need to be updated. We know that this has caused a few problems with the text messaging service this week

Finally, Can I say it was lovely to see so many parents at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening. I hope you found the opportunity informative.

It has been a very enjoyable first week - but I have to admit I am ready for the weekend. I think many of the children need a bit of a rest too. Enjoy the weekend.

Kind regards

Stephanie Severn