

# Hope Brook News

**Week ending:  
February 18th  
2022**

## Inside this issue:

Diary Dates	2
Good Work Awards	3
We the Curious Trip	4
Cross Country and Netball	5
Eco Council and Dance Workshop	6

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Dear Parents, Governors, Staff & Friends,

We certainly did not expect to end this term by closing the school a day early due to a storm! This term feels as if it has been a week longer than usual—and we saw that in the children. They have all worked really hard this term and were starting to look tired during this last week. They are all looking forward to a rest.

It has been really great that we have been able to start our programme of school trips again. This is such an important part of our school curriculum and we know the children really look forward to their educational visits and the visitors that come into school. This term, Kingfishers and Kestrels were inspired by their trip to We the Curious and Wagtails and Woodpeckers really enjoyed their dance workshops. As you will see from the diary sheet, next term, Woodpeckers will have a trip to Gloucester Cathedral and we are hoping to arrange a Djembe workshop for Kestrels. We also have an Easter Service to look forward to. We are pretty confident that the service will be held at All Saints Church and that parents will be able to attend.

As well as enjoying trips and workshops, the children have been delighted that the sporting competitions have restarted and we have certainly been demonstrating our skills in the sporting arena. We have had amazing success in the cross country and netball events, and members of Hope Brook have qualified for District/County tournaments. We have worked hard on rebuilding the children's fitness levels this year—and all the effort seems to be paying off. It is clear that the Daily Mile really does make a difference.

Next term, we will have a new member of staff joining the Hope Brook team. We are delighted to be able to welcome Mr Daniel Jackson to Hope Brook. He has been appointed as the replacement job share teacher in Woodpeckers. Mr Jackson is a very experienced teacher who will be working on Monday, Tuesday and part of Wednesday.

Mr Jackson is replacing Mrs Blackman as she now looks forward to retirement. As well as spending time with her grandchildren, we are sure Mrs Blackman will get involved in lots of local projects. We haven't managed to share a celebration with Mrs Blackman yet, but we have lots of ideas for her leaving present. Thank you so much for your generous contributions for her leaving gift. We are looking at something for her garden or a weekend craft course. We will let you know what is purchased.

I hope you all manage to enjoy a lovely half term break, enjoying time with friends and relatives. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school, on Monday 28th February.

February 2022

## Diary Dates

Date	Event	Date	Event
Monday 28 February	Back to School	Wednesday 8 June	Brooklets Parents' Evening
Tuesday 15 & Wednesday 23 March	Parents' Evenings	Tuesday 14 June	Year 4 & Year 5 Trip to the American Museum, Bath
Sunday 27 March	Mothering Sunday Service at All Saints Church	Wednesday 15 June	Y6 Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral
Tuesday 29 March	Woodpeckers Visit to Gloucester Cathedral	Wednesday 22 June	Kestrels Trip to Cardiff Synagogue and Museum
Friday 8 April	Term Ends	Friday 8 July	Sports Day
Monday 25 April	Back to School	Tuesday 12 July	Year 6 Production (afternoon)
W/c 9 May	SATS week - Year 6	Wednesday 13 July	Year 6 Production (evening)
Monday 16 May	Kestrels Visit to Gloucester Cathedral	Thursday 14 July	Woodpeckers & Robins visit to Dunraven Bay
Friday 20 May	Woodpeckers & Robins Visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park	Friday 15 July	Year 6 Visit to Beechenhurst
Friday 27 May	Jubilee Event	Monday 18 July	Kestrels Trip to West Midlands Safari Park
Monday 30 May	Half Term Starts	Thursday 21 July	Last Day of Term
Monday 7 June	Back to School		

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>

## Parents' Evenings

Bookings open for Parents Evening on Monday 28 February. Parents Evening will be face to face meetings. Entrance will be via the external door to your child's classroom, as before. Access to Kestrels will be via the external hall door.



## School Dinners

The New menu for Spring and Summer is available on the school website [https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/school\\_lunches\\_/311726](https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/school_lunches_/311726) and on ParentPay.

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.



## Jubilee Celebrations

I know many people are looking forward to marking this very special occasion later this year. The Parish Council are working hard to plan some exciting events for the village community. We are looking forward to supporting the Parish Council's plans and want to provide some advanced notice of some plans we have at school.

At school, we are planning our own celebration. Our celebration will take place on Friday 27th May—which is the last day of our half term. (I think the main events are happening in Longhope on Saturday 4th June 2022.)

We are planning a 'street party' style event on our playground. We will be asking the children to dress in red, white and blue. We plan to have fish and chips (maybe in a cone) and ice creams, and will round the afternoon off with some traditional games in the school grounds. We are planning to make some bunting with the children, giving the children the opportunity to draw pictures for the bunting that depict events that have happened since the Queen came to the throne in 1952. A lot has happened during her 70 years of service.

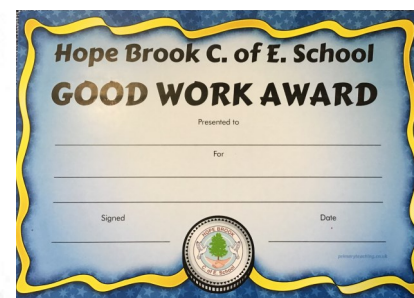
I am sure these plans will develop further over the next term, but thought it would be helpful to let you know 'something' will be happening to mark this occasion.

## 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 Lola Mason, Evie Webb, Jack Batt, Stanley Beard, Joshua Goodfield, Amelia Hodges, Lily Webb, Dexter Hill, Harvey Bullock, Rory White, Mary-Ann Badham, Ben Pearce, Martha Wooding, Georgie Williams, Keelan Coleman and Eva-Rose Essex-Teague 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!





## We The Curious

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Kingfishers and Kestrels visited 'We The Curious' at Bristol.

As the Kingfishers made their way from the coach to the centre, they spotted a huge, silver orb and wondered what it could be. Once inside the centre, they discovered this orb was a planetarium, which they visited and had the most thrilling experience of blasting off into space as scientists. Sometime later, they took part in the 'Earth, Sun and Moon Work Shop' which extended their knowledge about their topic 'Out of This World'. They also explored all the other many exhibits that there is to offer, such as 'The Rainbow Machine' and the 'Animation Centre'. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by everyone.

Kestrels' Innoventions workshop was about levers, pulleys and cams. We had a very heavy Furby, a plank of wood and a pivot. Annabel and Mrs Hollis used a plank of wood and we used Mrs Hollis as a Furby and Annabel was trying to get Mrs Hollis in the air without having to use much force. She tried lifting Mrs Hollis with one finger at first but couldn't manage but we then moved the pivot and Annabel could lift Mrs Hollis with a finger! After that, we looked at pulleys, like the bells in an old stately home to call the servants. We had a pulley and a bag. One of us pulled the bag and saw how much easier it would be than picking up the bag with a pulley. We then learned about cogs and gears; we used Lego helicopters, we were trying to work out where to put a cog to make the airplane fly. Lastly in the workshop, we learned about cams, experimenting using a catapult that we made by hand. We had a competition to see whose creation was best. We had to get the most balls into the crate where the Furbys lay to feed them. After the workshop, we had lunch in the dinner hall and then we went to browse around different parts of We the Curious. Downstairs in one area, there were greenhouses and food related things - mint that smelled of strawberries! In the opposite area, there was a delicate, quite ancient piano where you could see the workings. In the middle of the room, there was a ball and a blower. The ball needed the blower's blow to keep itself floating above ground. Upstairs, we saw a ginormous animated section, you could draw and create your own characters and then you could also use characters to create your own animated movie. In the other section upstairs, there were mirrors, bubbles and even a room on a slant. There was also a vibration section, where you could stand on the ground, press a button and then you would hear the vibration of whatever music you had pressed onto. We had a really fun day and learned lots. By Jasmine Jeavons





## Cross Country Event

On Thursday 28th January, we took two teams to the Forest of Dean District Cross Country Event at Newent Community School.

Well done to the Year 5 girls who once again took gold (Phoebe), silver (Florence) and bronze (Katie), and to the Year 5 boys for their gold (Leo) and silver (Isaac) medals.

Well done team for another FANTASTIC result - Phoebe Morris, Florence Jones, Katie Pugh, Leo Croker, Isaac Lawrance, Annabel Sanders, Ben Pearce, Harvey Bullock, Toby Hayward, Ted

Matthews, Ada Savidge, Zach White, Charlotte Elsmore, Lily Webb and James Smith.

Nine of the team have qualified for the County Cross Country event in Cheltenham on Saturday 12th March.

We are very proud of you all! Your results were testament to the hard work everyone puts in to the Daily Mile. Thank you to Mrs Hollis and Mrs Collis who supervised the team during the event.



## Netball Competition



On Wednesday 16th February, two teams from Hope Brook took part in the GPJ North Forest of Dean Area Netball Tournament.

As a result, we have another triumphant sporting achievement to announce. Our netball team of two squads did an amazing job at the tournament. With true Hope Brook sportsmanship, determination and resilience, both teams came first and are through to the district finals which are to be held at Dene Magna - date to be confirmed.

Well done to the two squads who have worked hard to achieve this success. Many thanks to Mrs Matthews and Mrs James who coached the teams to victory. Good luck to them for the GPJ district final in March.

## Eco Council Competition

'Eco-Council would like to say thank you to all of the entries for the Christmas challenges that we set. We had very creative entries in KS1 and KS2. We will be giving out the following certificates on Friday: most resourceful, most decorated and most creative.'



William Y4



India (Y4) and Louis (YR)



Amy (YR)

The certificates will be presented during the next Celebration Assembly when we return after the half term break.

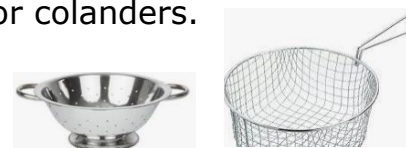
A request from the Eco-council:

Please could we have donations of old unwanted wax crayons. We would like to melt these down to make new crayons for Robins class.



Please could we have old unwanted kitchen utensils. Things like old frying baskets; old ladles or serving spoons and old sieves or colanders. We would like to make these into bird feeders in our outdoor areas.

Thank for anything that you can donate. '



## Chinese and Indian Dancing

On 27th January, a dance company called Dance Days visited to introduce the children in Woodpeckers to a Chinese Street Dance and the children in Wagtails to a traditional Indian Dance. Wagtails found their dance very tricky and had to work hard to keep up.



February 2022