



Hope Brook News

Week ending: January 11th 2019

Inside this issue:

Welcome Back	1
Diary Dates	2
Autumn Fayre	3
A Gift for a Baby	4
Christmas for the choir	5
Hope Brook's Got Talent	6
Governor message	6

If you have a child who should start school in September, please ensure that you have applied for a primary school place by 15th January 2019

**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,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to whatever 2019 might hold.

Last term was incredibly busy and we were very proud of all the children's achievements. The KS1 children managed to perform a very touching Christmas Play, despite the challenge of the number of pupils who picked up chickenpox!! The choir had a very busy season. They enjoyed entertaining the residents of The Manor and proudly performed in the Advent Service and our carol service at All Saints Church. They did an excellent job. Thank you to everyone who joined us at the church. You have to enjoy singing carols at Christmas. Pictures of all these events can be seen on page 4 and 5.

We have also been joined by two new members of staff. In November, Vicky Dalton joined the team at Pippins@Hope Brook. Vicky has returned to work, following the birth of her two children, and will be working on Monday, Tuesday morning and Thursday. Many of you will have already met Dean White who has joined the staff of Hope Brook as School Business Manager. We hope they have felt welcomed by Hope Brook staff and enjoy working alongside our 'amazing team'.



Dean White



Vicky Dalton

11th January 2019

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Date	Event
Monday 7th January 2019	Term Starts	W/c 13th May	SATS week - Year 6
Friday 25th January 2019	2.30pm Eco-Sale	W/c 20th May	Arts Week
Friday 1st February 2019	5pm Film Night	w/c 27th May	Half Term
w/c 18th February 2019	Half Term	w/c 24th June 2019	Dene Magna Induction Week
Tuesday 5th March 2019	Parents Evening	Friday 28th June 2019	Passport Day
Thursday 14th March 2019	Parents Evening	Friday 5th July 2019	Sports Day 9.30am
Friday 15th March 2019	Red Nose Day	Tuesday 9th July 2019	Summer Production - KS2 2.00pm
Friday 5th April 2019	Easter Service 9.30am All Saints' Church	Wednesday 10th July 2019	Summer Production - KS2 6.00pm
W/c 8th April	Easter Holiday	Tuesday 19th July 2019	Leavers Service 9.15am
Tuesday 23rd April 2019	Summer Term starts		

Good Work Awards

Well done Nuala Barcoe, Lexi Barrington, Harvey Bullock, Max Cruickshank, Phoebe Goodfield, Chloe Moverley and Summer Royal who are the first people to receive the Head Teacher's Award in 2019.

A special mention for Lexi this week—as this was the 5th time she received a Head Teacher's Award, she gets to keep the cup. Well done, Lexi!



11th January 2019

Autumn Fayre

On Friday 2nd November, an Autumn Fayre was held at Hope Brook. There was a variety of stalls, including soaps, lucky dips, and cakes to purchase. The School Council ran a very popular 'Teddy Tombola' but the most popular stall was definitely the 'SLIME' stall where children could make their own slime—and include a bit of glitter if they wanted to. Miss Kay and Mrs Blackman looked like they were enjoying that stall far too much!! The evening raised £354.81. Well done Mrs Harrington and Mrs Acland—for organising this event again.

Safety Notice



I am sure you would agree that the children's safety on the school site is vital. We have reached a point in the year where we would like to remind all members of the school community about how we can keep everybody safe.

We would like to remind everybody that the safest way to enter / leave the school site is by using the designated paths. We ask all parents to be good role models by using the paths and not walking on the road or cutting across the car park at school.

The children know that they are welcome to bring their scooters and bicycles into school—but with the number of people who use the paths at the start and the end of the day, it is not safe for them to be used on the school site. The children have been reminded that they should walk in and out of school and that scooters and bicycles should be pushed once inside the school gates.

As the colder weather approaches, can we also remind parents that we try our best to manage icy surfaces on site but this is a challenge. We know that the bricks tend to provide a safer surface than the tarmac on the school site and that walking into school calmly reduces the risk of slipping. We would be grateful if parents would support us by ensuring their children are aware of this guidance.

Thank you for helping us to keep your children safe.

Parental Help

Are there any parents, grandparents or friends of Hope Brook who would be prepared to spare some of their precious time to listen to readers in Woodpeckers?

Could you spare 20 minutes at the start or end of the day? We would be happy to provide a cup of coffee or tea if you would be willing to help.

If you are able to help, please contact the school office.



11th January 2019

A Present for the Baby

This year's Christmas play certainly had the 'Aaah... factor' with that special gift being a simple kiss. What a lovely sentiment for the festive season! I have to admit it is the first nativity scene I have seen with elephants. As many of you know—we started with 10 elephants—but only managed 5 on the day, as chickenpox took hold. The children did a terrific job and sang beautifully on the day. I would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs Acland who worked so hard to ensure the Christmas play went ahead. She was, of course, supported by the continued efforts of the rest of the KS1 / EYFS team—Ms Rowe, Mrs Davis (nee Hathaway) and Ms Roberts.



Christmas Raffle

I know many of you purchased tickets for this year's outstanding fundraising event—the Christmas raffle. I would like to say a huge **thank you** to Mary Wales who took on the organisation of this event. Nearly 40 prizes were won in all, including:

- One week's holiday in a cottage in Cornwall—won by Natalie Gould
- A huge hamper—won by Dean White
- The polar bear cuddly toy (a favourite for many of the children—won by Mrs Chelu)

The raffle raised **£1291.00**—which is being used to purchase some outdoor play equipment and some additional luxuries for the classrooms.

Fantastic job, Mary.

Carol Service



It was a cold, wet evening on Tuesday 18th December and we weren't able to do our usual walk up to the church—carol singing on the way. However, many of you still managed to join us as the choir led a service celebrating the symbols of Christmas. As well as singing heartily, they explained the reason behind all those symbols you find around your house at Christmas. Well done, Choir!

Advent Service

On Sunday 9th December, the choir joined the rest of the church community at All Saints Church. As well as singing three beautiful carols, the choir, and other younger members of the local community, enjoyed participating in a range of art and craft activities arranged by Clive and other members of the church community. The children decorated biscuits, made decorations, enjoyed singing and participated in a lively retelling of the Christmas story. It was a very enjoyable morning for everyone.



School Council Talent Contest

On the last day of the Christmas term, the School Council organised the ever popular Talent Contest. Although we joke about it, it was clear that Hope Brook certainly has talent. There was singing and dancing and jokes and gymnastics —a fantastic variety of acts. The winners are pictured below with their prizes. Well done to everybody who took part and a special note for Harrison and Arthur who kept us amused throughout the morning.



Georgie and Jack
1st Place



Jasmine
2nd Place



Cian
3rd Place

A message from the Governors

As we start another term, I thought I would provide a brief update from the Governors. We have been progressing with the school year, monitoring progress and attainment data as well as the school development plan, which targets three specific areas each year. Also at the start of each year, we receive responses to the parents' questionnaire. In general, responses are very positive across the school. However, we have been conscious for a while that a small proportion of responders feel we could up our game on how we communicate with parents. In response to this, we organized a Parent/Governor evening at the start of term as a forum for Parents to meet us and provide an opportunity for discussion. Unfortunately, it was less than successful as only one parent attended (many thanks go to him!). This was a pity because, in addition to preparing information for parents, we had arranged for our caterers to provide some food samples. I can report that the meatballs and macaroni cheese were both tasty. When talking to our caterer, I learnt that there are strict rules regarding ingredients in school food, for example, addition of salt is not permitted. Therefore, they have to use other techniques to season food, for example, using stock. It's clear to me that the approach of a public meeting between Parents and Governors does not work, so we will need to think of alternative strategies to communicate with parents and would welcome your ideas. Governors usually attend most of the major events in the school calendar – perhaps we need to make ourselves a little more visible. We are always happy to talk to you and value your feedback. I attended the Remembrance Service and, as ever, found it a very moving occasion, particularly when the names of those from the village who died in the wars were read out by the pupils. I wish you a very Happy New Year and look forward to hearing from you.

You can always contact me on: chair@hopebrook.gloucs.sch.uk.

Justin Cook, Chair of Governors

11th January 2019