



# Hopelands Newsletter

AUTUMN TERM 2011

## Hello and Welcome Back!

Well, the season of mist and mellow fruitfulness took us all by surprise by turning into a summer heat wave. It was a glorious way to start the term, although a bit of a shock for our cross-country participants who found the going somewhat harder than expected at Tewkesbury! But more of their success later....

It's been lovely to see so many happy faces coming through the gate each day, and we have so many exciting events planned for this year too. It promises to be a busy and productive year for everyone.

Mrs S Bradburn

## Swimming Dates

November 2011	1, 8, 15, 22 (Years 1 - 4)
January 2012	17, 24, 31 (Years 5 - 6)
February 2012	7 (Years 5 - 6)
March 2012	6, 13, 20 (Years 1 - 4)
April 2012	17, 24, (Years 1 - 4)
May 2012	1, 8, 15, 22 (Years 5 - 6)
June 2012	12, 19 (Whole school)



19 children from Years 5 and 6 will be singing as part of a 2,000 strong 'Young Voices' choir at the NEC in Birmingham. Please visit [youngvoices.co.uk](http://youngvoices.co.uk) for more information. If the children click on the 'kids' section, all the tunes and words are there. Please use this to help you learn the words and tunes over half term!

Mrs O'Dell

## SCHOOL AGM

The School AGM will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 6pm in the Sophie Hall.

All parents are welcome to attend.

# WHAT'S NEW(S) AT HOPELANDS?

**A huge welcome to Mr David Barry and Mr Will Barber.** Mr Barry takes over as head of Year 5 and Mr Barber as Head of Year 6. Both gentlemen have proved an immediate hit with both pupils and parents and we're sure they'll become invaluable members of staff.

## New Arrangements for Morning Care Club

With the small size of the school, we have noticed that the corridors and hallways have become extremely busy and congested in the mornings. We therefore decided that the club will take place in the Sophie Hall and/or the playground area behind the hall. At 8.25am the school bell will be rung and all children, those in the morning club and those who have just arrived, will then line up as they do after break-time. Children will then enter the school.

On Tuesdays, because of swimming classes and the need to catch the bus to the swimming pool, the previous arrangement for morning club (i.e. that it takes place in classrooms) will continue.

The school is also asking all Year 1 – 6 parents to avoid coming into the school buildings in the morning. We believe this will not only help the congestion but also aid the children's independence in school.

## Uniform

Could all parents please ensure that their children have their uniform clearly labelled. A number of unnamed uniform items are currently being stored in the lost property bucket. If any children are missing uniform items could they please see Mrs Lord who will assist with the lost property. May we remind parents that **winter uniform is compulsory after half term.**

## School Development Plans

As you are aware, the school is planning to develop the site with the aim of making classrooms larger. Over the past 4 years, governors have looked at two options, one being an extension of the school into the playground and the other being the purchase and redevelopment of the property next to the school, No. 40 Regent Street.

In a meeting held in the summer between parents and governors, it was apparent that the preferred option of developing the school would be to purchase and redevelop No. 40 Regent Street. Since the property came on the market in February 2011, the school has kept in close contact with the owners' estate agents, Besley Hill and on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011, an offer was made by the school to purchase the property which was subsequently accepted by the owners.

The purchase of the property will depend on a variety of factors including planning permission and satisfactory surveyors' reports but the school feels it is important at this stage to keep parents updated on the progress of the project.

## Lateness and absence

Classroom registers are taken by form teachers at 8.45am. Any children entering the school after this time will need to report to the office to be marked late in the register.

If a child is absent from school due to illness, parents are asked to telephone the school before 10.00am on the first morning of the absence. It is important to inform the school as all unauthorised absences have to be recorded on the End of Year Report. Absence from school for a medical appointment should be put in writing to Mrs Bradburn.

## Parking

As parents are aware, the parking in Regent Street is a particular problem at pick up and drop off times. Unfortunately, there is very little that the school can do about this problem other than offer parents the opportunity to park at Stonehouse Community Centre car park and walk down to school. The school would ask that parents use this facility as much as possible as the traffic outside school is becoming a problem for our neighbours.

## EVENTS THIS TERM

### IN have completely immersed themselves in their Victorian History Topic this term

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September you would have been forgiven for thinking you had been zapped back in time as all of the children in IN arrived in full Victorian costume (yes – even Mrs Naish, Mrs Lord and Mrs Preece!) ready for their day of activities and role play with staff and actors at the Museum in the Park in Stroud.



A wonderful time was had by all...so much so that the children wanted to share some of their newly learnt playground games and work with their parents and the rest of the school – for a Class assembly on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Yet again, Victorian costumes were worn and the children entertained us all with poetry, music, songs and drama.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS!

The new School Council members have been getting used to their role within school and are enjoying the challenge of trying to find ways to make Hopelands an even better place to learn and laugh!

We kicked off with the introduction of a 'Fabby Fruit Friday' - so far....so good! There are so many tempting 'fruity type treats' out there today - so it seems to be making the children think about what they can have as an alternative for morning snack time.

They were also instrumental in the huge amount raised for the Help The Heroes Fund raising day on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October, busy making posters, promoting at playtimes and planning and helping to run the games on the day. The sum of £155 was a fantastic outcome!

The next activity is the photography completion....entries due in after half term - so hope the children get handy with their cameras during the holidays!!





From left to right; Emma, Elliot, Taylor, Tallulah, Lara and Daisy all won prizes for their fabulous fruit models

## WATER, WATER – BUT NOT EVERYWHERE....

Following a recent trip by Years 5 and 6 to Hayden Sewage Works, Kate King from Severn Trent Water Authority visited the school to give an assembly and talk about ways in which we can conserve water. Not only was it extremely informative, it was also very entertaining. Alex Preece gamely stepped up to the mark and wore a froggy shower cap to give us a demonstration on how to take a four minute shower (he kept his uniform on too)! After the assembly, Kate attended a session of the School Council where they continued to discuss ways in which we could all continue to raise awareness of the importance of saving water.



## Lacrosse at Westonbirt School

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October The girls of year 6 were treated to an afternoon of lacrosse, cream cakes and swimming. As in previous years, Westonbirt school invited a select few to come and mix together to learn the skill (and menace) that is modern lacrosse. The girls were split into teams, alongside with their new friends from other schools, and competed in a tournament played on the sunlit, tree-lined fields. "Fast and furious" does no justice to the way they played. A scrumptious cream tea followed, taken in the splendid wood-panelled hall, then a splash around in Westonbirt's private pool. It was a thoroughly fine afternoon and we all arrived back tired but very happy.

# FOX CUBS TRIP TO WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM



Fox Cubs had a wonderful time at Westonbirt Arboretum on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October. The weather was warm and it didn't rain, which is a first for a Fox Cub visit! We started the day by making a snake made out of leaves then went onto building dens and looking for various shades of leaves to make a face collage. After a short walk we headed back for a picnic lunch then finished day in the play area. Look out for the photographs on the website after half term.



Fox Cubs children exploring the woods



The happy couple – William and Hetty. Will these love birds tend to their own garden together one day?!

## Year 5 and 6 Trip to Cheltenham Literature Festival

As Barber, Barry and Preece (teachers, not solicitors) bussed their way along the bumpy M5 Northwards to Cheltenham all the Year 5 and 6 children were chattering excitedly to themselves while the teachers took control up front!

Arriving at the square's geometrical flower beds, and rather surprised looking Cheltenhamians (pronounced Charmians), we set about our first task; to draw some local item that might catch our eye. Most of the pupils set about finding some sort of floral likeness with gusto, squatting and worming their way through the colourful flower beds.

A little later we marched off to the two Anne Frank seminars, the first involving a quick talk, followed by painting a representation of the themes of "Hope", "Fear" and "Identity"; all relevant to Anne Frank's sad experience. The second seminar was a more informative presentation about the life of Anne Frank, eliciting many impressive comments from the Hopelands pupils. All in all a successful day.

Mr Barber

## <<<<<<<SPORTS NEWS>>>>>>>>

### **HURRAH FOR HOPELANDS**

For the first time ever both the girls and the boys Cross Country teams were victorious at the Tewkesbury Cross Country Event held in September and October. All the children did their absolute best and deserve our praise for a fabulous effort. A special mention, though, should go to Cara Hart who won all her races against sixteen other schools!

In fact the girls team together beat all the large schools competing as well as all the small schools. Outstanding performances by all the boys too as their team's collective effort also gained them first place. Many of the children are now on course (no pun intended) to represent the County Squad. A superb achievement for a small school.

Next February is the climax to the season. If Hopelands win two out of the three matches we will be crowned Overall Champions. I am sure we can do it...

Mrs McQuillan



## FRIENDS OF HOPELANDS NEWSLETTER

Thank you for all your support so far this term. Our fundraising has got off to a flying start with two very popular Fresh Fruit Friday tuck shops and Bag 2 School. The bags we collected weighed a total of 203kg, which raised £101.50. We will be running a Bag 2 School event each term (dates to be confirmed), so please don't throw anything away next time you're having a clear out!

This year the money raised by Friends of Hopelands will be put towards part of the exciting new development taking place - possibly by helping to furnish a new classroom. We will keep you updated on this as more information becomes available.

The children have now finished their lovely Christmas card designs, and I should have the proofs back shortly after half term for you to place your orders in plenty of time for Christmas. Packs of 12 cards will cost £5.

The second half of this term is going to be busy, so here are some dates for your diaries:

### **Wed 2 Nov: Parents' meal**

This will take place at Giuseppe's Gourmet, Nympsfield and is a great way to get to know some of the other parents - please see Julie Hall-Tomkin if you would like to go.

### **Fri 11 Nov: Spooktacular!**

We are inviting the children to dress up in their favourite spooky costumes and join us for lots of fun in the dark - with torches! This will run from 5pm til 7pm and will cost £3 per child. Spooktacular activities will include apple bobbing, face painting and a yucky dip (all included in the entry price) with hotdogs and popcorn on sale as extras.

### **Fri 2 Dec: Disco**

Lots of dancing and fungames in Sophie Hall, plus hair styling and (temporary!) tattoos. More details will follow nearer the time.

### **Wed 7 Dec: 'American Raffle'**

This will be drawn at the Christmas concert. Raffle tickets will be sold in the week leading up to the concert, with 50% of the takings going to Friends of Hopelands and the other 50% as prize money to the holder of the winning ticket drawn on the day.

### **Thurs 8 Dec: Pantomime**

This year's fun-packed panto at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham is Jack and the Beanstalk. It starts at 2pm - school breaks up at 12 noon. I still have a small number of tickets left, so please let me know if you'd like to go.

### **50 Club**

If you'd like to take part in the 50 Club but haven't yet returned your form, please let me know ASAP. Don't miss your chance to win one of 3 cash prizes every month!

If you have any queries, suggestions or ideas, please drop me a line at

[icaniwillido@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:icaniwillido@hotmail.co.uk)

**Charlie Coles**  
Chair, Friends of Hopelands

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
November	9 <sup>th</sup>	Small Schools Football Tournament
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Young Voices at the NEC
December	7 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concert
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term
January	4 <sup>th</sup>	School Starts
February	13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Half-term
March	26 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holidays Start

Further information can be found at [www.hopelands.org.uk/Calendar.html](http://www.hopelands.org.uk/Calendar.html)