



Newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023

Dear families

It has been a very exciting week here at Hope not least because of the Chinese New Year celebrations, held in collaboration with the **Orpington School of Chinese**. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Chinese traditions, and it was so lovely to have not one but four Chinese teachers coming in to talk and learn with the children. I was also a very proud Principal as the feedback from all of the Chinese teachers was that the children here at Hope are an absolute delight to work with. You will see we have some other exciting things coming up over the next few weeks; with a new gardening club, meadow school being introduced for all of key stage two after half term, and a new prayer group for parents starting in February. We also have a new family liaison officer with us now, Ms Anglin, who has already had the pleasure of meeting some of you and is looking forward to getting to know the rest of the community well. With springtime just around the corner, it does feel like the perfect time for new seeds to be sown in our journey this academic year and so it is with a happy heart we thank the Lord for all the opportunities that we are able to bring to the children this year. You will see that my coffee morning has been rearranged for the end of this half time, and I do hope to see lots of you there for crumpets/biscuits and a cup of tea or coffee.

With warmest blessings
Mrs Donnelly



167 Rectory Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5BU

Principal: Sara Donnelly

T: 020 3223 2000

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W: www.hopecommunityschool.org

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Chinese New Year Celebrations



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Here at Hope Community School we take bullying very seriously and we know that as parents you do too. It is incredibly difficult as a parent when your child is experiencing bullying and it is crucial that we all work together to ensure bullying is tackled immediately.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as: “the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power”

Put simply this means any situation where your child is being deliberately and repeatedly hurt by other people and they find it hard to defend themselves. This could be face to face or online, in school or in the community. It may be physical, or it could be verbal or emotional. For example, your child might be pushed around by others, called names, or be excluded from friendship groups.

Children may also target aspects about people they feel are ‘different’ – this could include disability, race, faith, gender, sex, sexuality, poverty, talent, skin conditions, allergies, or situation at home. Children are influenced by the home, community, and society they grow up in, by the things they see, read, and hear, and the people around them.

We all have a role to play in creating communities where children feel safe and valued, where we stand up to prejudice and are united against bullying. Most children will experience or witness bullying during the school years: they may be the target of bullying, may be involved in bullying others, may stand by while others are being bullied or may take positive action to stop bullying.

It’s important to remember too that children who are bullying others need help too as there are usually reasons behind these behaviours. What is important is that we recognise it and endeavour to stop it, and where others have been hurt, learn to take action to put things right. If you have been told by others that your child is showing bullying behaviour, it’s important to stay calm and ask for examples of the things they have said or done and the impact this has had on others so that you can help them to learn how to change these behaviours.

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Over the next few weeks, we will be holding Anti-Bullying collectives weekly with the children to explore what bully is, and discussing how we can all act to prevent it. There are also lots of ways you can support at home.

- Visit <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>
- Talk to your child about how we can show kindness, compassion and respect to others
- Check in with your child regularly about how they are feeling
- Speak to your child's class teacher if you have concerns
- Consider the questions below to help you to start talking to your child about bullying.

Let's talk....

- What does bullying mean to you?
- What does it mean to be a good friend?
- What do you look for in a friend?
- What are some of the ways you can be kind to other people?
- What can you do if other people are being unkind to someone?
- What are all the ways that people can be different?
- Why is it important to accept people for who they are?
- How can you help someone who is sad or lonely?
- Who can help you if you are worried about bullying or something someone has said or done?
- What can you do if you have hurt someone?
- How can children protect themselves from bullying online?
- What advice would you give to younger children who are being bullied?

*Taken from the Anti-Bullying Alliance advice for parents

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*Coffee morning
With
Mrs Donnelly*

*Wednesday 8th February
9.00am - 10.00am
Community Room*



**SEN drop in session
with
Mrs Austin**

**This has been changed to Monday 6th February
2.00pm – 3.00pm
Please let the office know if you would like to attend.
(Previously Wednesday 8th February)**



Mental Health

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Hope Community School, we are committed to taking a whole school approach to mental health.

What is a Whole School Approach?

'A whole school approach to mental health is a culture that is built upon empathy, relationships and evidence-based practice. The practices are embedded within the curriculum, policies and procedures across the whole school. They are inclusive and flexible to support and respond to the school community's mental health needs.'
- Dr Asha Patel, Clinical Psychologist and CEO at Innovating Minds (2020).

We are well on our way to implementing a whole-school approach. We think carefully about our school policies and procedures and what affect they will have on children. We foster good relationships between staff and pupils, teach our Hope Values weekly, which focus on empathy and inclusivity, and we offer support to those who need intervention.

But we want to make sure we are always striving to be more supportive to our families and students. As part of this process, we need to take an honest look at where we are now, so we know what our next steps should be.

Would you please take this anonymous survey to help us gain insight and understanding as we continue this process. Thank you.

<https://app.myedupod.com/survey/4302496a-97f2-42f2-920c-f29b099b913d/care-givers>

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New Clubs coming soon ...



Gymnastics

We are delighted to announce that we will be introducing a new gymnastics club after the half term. This exciting new club will be for children in years 1 and above. Keep your eyes peeled for details on how to book on.



Gardening Club

A brand-new gardening club will be starting after half term. This club will be for children in years 3-6. Details on how to book will be sent home closer to half term.



Prayer morning – Parents

Details to follow

LIGHTHOUSE

Our Lighthouse group is made up of 2 children from every class.

These children are key to helping the school to maintain it's Christian ethos.

They do this by discussing how they feel their faith or their Christian understanding is and by asking their classmates.

They work with the school chaplain to run a collective a term, and are the designated faith leads in their classes, responsible for helping their class memorise the verse of the term, and bringing in any new initiatives developed from what their peers have said.



Our 'Lighthouse Group' are running the Collective next Wednesday 1st February – all are welcome!

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**FRIDAY 10TH
FEBRUARY**

**LOVE
YOURSELF
DAY**

To end Children's Mental Health week and in the lead up to valentines day, we are inviting you to come to school as "you", no uniform, in whatever makes you feel happy and comfortable.

£1 suggested donation



We will also be selling sweets at the end of the day on Thursday and Friday. You may want to treat yourself or someone you care about.





Blackfen Community Library

BOOK BUDDIES

We are running reading support at Blackfen community Library every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3.45pm-4.45pm during term time which has already started. We aim to help children struggling to learn to read or who need extra practice.

Please contact the library directly to book your child's place:

hello@blackfencommunitylibrary.org



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KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

Monday 30th

'Little Sparks of Hope' Toddler club 09.00-10.30am

Tuesday 31st

Waymakers Trip to Western Marble Arch Synagogue

February

Friday 3rd

Pathfinders Reading Breakfast for parents/children

Monday 6th

'Little Sparks of Hope' Toddler club 09.00-10.30am

SEN Drop in session with Mrs Austin 2.00pm-3.00pm

Tuesday 7th

Musical Showcase Collective – all welcome

Wednesday 8th

Coffee morning with Mrs Donnelly

Monday 13th-17th

HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 20th

STAFF TRAINING – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Friday 24th

Yr6 Trip, Natural History Museum: 24/02/23

Monday 27th

'Little Sparks of Hope' Toddler club 09.00-10.30am

March

Monday 6th

'Little Sparks of Hope' Toddler club 09.00-10.30am

Friday 10th

Discoverers Reading Breakfast for parents/children

Monday 13th

'Little Sparks of Hope' Toddler club 09.00-10.30am

Monday 20th

'Little Sparks of Hope' Toddler club 09.00-10.30am

Monday 27th

'Little Sparks of Hope' Toddler club 09.00-10.30am

Friday 31st

LAST DAY OF TERM

April

Monday 3rd – 14th

EASTER HOLIDAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 17th

First day back to school – summer term

May

Friday 26th

STAFF TRAINING – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Monday 19th-02/06

HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED

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Musical Showcase Collective

I am delighted to let you know that on **Tuesday 7th February at 9am**, we will be hosting a whole school musical showcase collective.

Each class will be performing a song that they have learned in their music lessons this half term. It would be lovely if you could join us to watch their performances.

Miss Matthews





Attendance ...

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PARENTS/CARERS TO REPORT THEIR CHILD ABSENT BY EITHER LEAVING A MESSAGE ON THE DAY ON THE SCHOOL'S ANSWERPHONE OR BY EMAILING:

enquiries@hopecommunityschool.org

Please do not email Jill and Della directly as neither work full-time.
Many thanks for your cooperation.

Punctuality ...

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PARENTS/CARERS TO ENSURE THEIR CHILD/REN ARRIVE AT SCHOOL IN GOOD TIME. THIS SETS GOOD LIFE LONG HABITS – if children think it is normal to be persistently late, this may have a knock on effect with higher education, jobs, appointments etc.

When a child has to walk into a full class later than their peers, this not only disturbs the teaching, distracts the class, it can make that child feel anxious. Often it is the registration time, when friendship groups have been formed for the day.

A good practice ...

Early is on time
On time is late
Late is UNTHINKABLE!

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