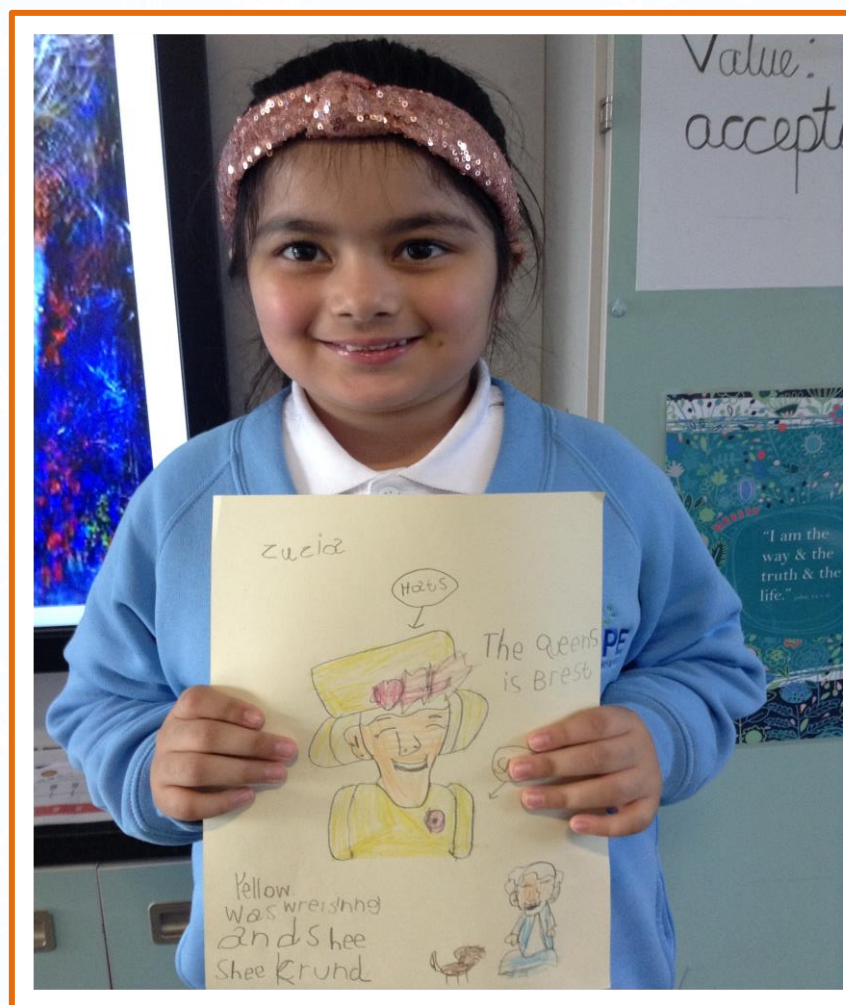


Newsletter

Friday 9th September 2022



First and foremost as we say goodbye to our beloved Queen, we wanted to share with you a fantastic picture drawn by Zuzia from our Waymakers class, which was drawn after our special collective this morning, dedicated to her Majesty.



167 Rectory Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5BU

Principal: Mrs Sara Donnelly

T: 020 3223 2000

E: enquiries@hopecommunityschool.org

W: www.hopecommunityschool.org

New Generation Schools Trust. Company Registered in England, Number: 7963778



Dear families,

As I sit here reflecting on my first week at Hope Community School, I can't help but smile from ear to ear as I recall the many highlights that jump out. From welcoming you all on Monday morning, to meeting the children in their classes, to enjoying some wonderful chats at my first coffee morning, it has truly been a fantastic first week. I have been made so very welcome, by you, the families, by the children and by the staff. So for that I say a very big thank you to you all.

Of course, the feelings in school today have been more sombre as we contemplate the death of our Queen, her majesty Queen Elizabeth II - the longest reigning monarch and a role model to leaders around the world. I know that I will always hold dear the example set by our honourable and world respected Queen, who offered her services to our country with dedication and grace. However, while we do indeed mourn the loss of a great leader, it is a sign of a new beginning which, like the changes faced by Hope Community School, signify new horizons.

Going forwards, you will hopefully have noticed that I am not one to waste any time, and therefore this newsletter makes some exciting announcements; such as the reopening of the breakfast club, the start-up of our choir and much more. I have been carefully reading through the suggestions and feedback in the survey I sent out earlier in the week, and I hope that the announcements in this week's newsletter will be welcomed by those that put forwards their ideas and hopes for the school this year.

I will continue to read through survey responses as the link is still open for you to contribute (so please do!), and you will see further on that I have 1:1 sessions for parents that would like to talk to me privately. I hope this will help me to ensure that your priorities remain my priorities so that we can all work together to secure the very best offering for your children.

Yours faithfully
Sara Donnelly - Principal



Lovely Hats

Our Friday morning collective (assembly) will resume on Friday 17th September when we would like to invite parents/carers to come and enjoy being together and celebrate your children.



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Breakfast Club Opening



Following on from the responses to our survey we will be re-opening a breakfast club service on Monday 19th September. Opening at 7.30am the breakfast club will offer children a healthy selection of breakfast options and a nurturing environment to play, read and prepare for their day ahead. We are proud to say that having researched the costs of breakfast clubs locally we are able to provide this service at an extremely competitive rate of £4 per hour, with a 50% discount for siblings. Details on booking and how to make payment will follow in a letter next week.

Head Boy/Girl

This year we are introducing a Head Boy and Head Girl role, who will be a year 6 pupil that lead our pupil parliament and worked closely with the Principal to steer the school forwards. The process for this has already begun with those wishing to stand for nomination already going through the first round of speeches in class. Next week our nominees will present their speeches to the school and voting will then take place with the results announced during our Wednesday collective. We are very proud of those who have put themselves forward as they are pupils who are willing to lead, be a role model to others and help shape the school for the benefit of all.





**Book your place now for open
days/evening and tours for Reception
Class 2023**

Tuesday 4th October - 9.30am

Tuesday 11th October - 1.30pm

Wednesday 2nd November - 1.30pm

Tuesday 29th November - 9.30am

Thursday 1st December – 6pm

**We have added an evening date/time
for working parents. Please bring
along your little ones to look at our
lovely school 😊**

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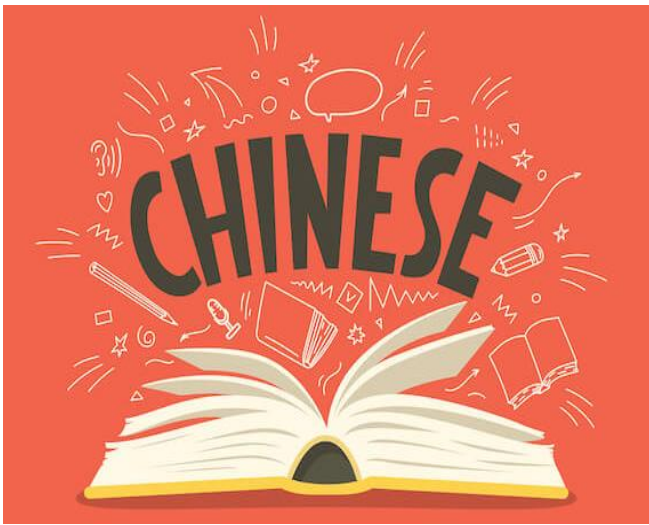
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Orpington School of Chinese to teach Mandarin



One of the distinguishing traits of Hope Community School is that it recognises the importance of preparing our children to thrive in the future world, and historically Hope has done that by offering experiences which exceed those of the average state primary school. The teaching of Mandarin is an excellent example of how the school has considered what might benefit children the most when they step out into their careers later on in life. Mandarin is the second most widely spoken language in the world, second only to English. We are therefore very pleased to inform you that years 3-6 will receive Chinese lessons, delivered by the Orpington School of Chinese teachers, starting after the Autumn half term.

'Hope Choir' is back!



We are delighted to announce that Miss Matthews will be running the school choir this term. Children in years 2-6 will be able to join the after school choir group, which will start on Tuesday 20th September, and will run from 3.30pm-4.15pm. The choir will have the opportunity to perform at schools events but also for different audiences within our community, such as a local elderly people's home. Details on how to secure a place will follow in a letter home.



Community News ...

Respecting and working alongside our neighbours and the local community has been very important to us since opening the school back in September 2013. In fact we have been lucky enough to have volunteers working in our school to support children with their reading with ladies such as Joan and Geraldine who live opposite.

All Schools are enriched immeasurably when volunteers give up their free time to help out during the school day. All volunteers are DBS checked before they start with us. If you are interested in becoming a valued member of our wonderful volunteer team, we would love to have you onboard – please contact the office to register your interest.

*Parking in the surrounding area:

We would be particularly grateful if when dropping/collecting your children to be mindful of our neighbours and NOT to park on or across their private drives, this includes 'School Cottages' opposite where most are elderly/disabled residents who require 24 hours access for transport ambulances etc – IT IS PRIVATE LAND AND YOU COULD BE PROSECUTED.

Lidl Development (Drop off point for parents)



Following a meeting with the project manager of the new Lidl development we are able to now inform you that the Lidl team are hopeful works will be completed between the end of January and the end of February. The school is gaining a number of benefits once this completes, including of course our much awaited new drop off point for parents.

There is a car park available to Hope parents in Baugh Road, toward the mini roundabout on the right-hand side as you go down.

***Thank you for your cooperation – it is much appreciated.**



We would like to remind everyone of our expectations of behaviour for learning:

1 Ready, Respectful, Safe

These three words summarise of behaviour policy, the school's core Christian values and our approach to how we treat each other and our environment. Children are taught and encouraged to apply this approach across their school day to ensure that they may gain the most out of the learning and social opportunities they encounter whilst allowing others to do the same.

Ready

- Ready to learn by being punctual to school, arriving in their class so they are ready to start work at 8.50 am at the very latest.
- Ready for school; pupils are wearing the correct school uniform.
- Ready for PE: pupils have their PE kits in school every day of the week.
- Pupils complete their homework and reading, regularly and on time.
- Ready to do as the adults ask and follow their instructions.
- Ready to listen to adults or others, without interrupting.
- Ready to sit calmly and quietly, without fidgeting or distracting others.

Respectful

- Pupils are polite, they do not use rude or unkind words; joking is not an excuse for rudeness.
- Pupils respect everyone's body and feelings, they don't hurt anyone's body or feelings.
- Pupils are kind when others make mistakes, they don't laugh or tease others.
- Pupils are truthful and don't tell lies.
- Pupils talk and don't shout.
- Pupils sit quietly in Collectives or during prayer times.
- Pupils take care of property and their environment.

Safe

- Pupils walk around the school and only run when in a safe place at play or in PE.
- Pupils hold on when using stairs giving others space and time to move.
- Pupils play safely, they do not play rough games, or play fight.
- Pupils line up one behind the other without touching, pushing or talking.

2 Celebrating good choices

On a daily basis across the school staff model and prompt children in making good choices. In addition to instant praise and feedback, children's positive attitudes to learning, good choices related to behaviours for learning, showing that they are ready for learning.

Children are rewarded through

- Achieving 'Lovely Hat' recognition in weekly celebration Collective for effort in learning, success in learning.
- Weekly in class celebration of children achieving or making progress in key learning areas, such as reading, writing and maths.



- Principal certificates issued for outstanding contributions to whole class learning, personal achievement or behaviour for learning.
- Dojo Points issued for when an individual or whole class works well and accumulated points go towards scale class / individual rewards
- Hope Community Cup awarded for outstanding community
- Attendance certificates issued to children with 100% attendance each term and over the year.
- Principal Awards – Annual awarded for outstanding contributions to Hope School.

3 Home School Communication

The school will use a range of communications to contact you.

Email is used for general letters from staff; for updates to schedules, for the newsletter,

Class dojo messages: are used by class teachers. Staff will use this to send parents messages, e.g. bring in a cardboard box, recognise pupil achievements (children are awarded dojo points) and alert families to any changes in schedules . Parents can also use this to send staff quick messages. Please be aware that staff are in their classrooms between 8.30- 4pm each day, during this time, they are focused on teaching and may not be able to reply to any message.

Attendance message and others need to be sent to the general office email:

enquires@hopecommunityschool.org use this to send messages to staff or to arrange a meeting.

If you send a message to a member of staff we will aim to reply within 24 hours during the working week, however please be aware that teacher staff are in class between 8.30am – 4pm each day.

4 Using social media

It is inevitable, given the nature of schools and what we do, that there will be occasions when parents are concerned, worried, or in some cases annoyed about things that have, or may have happened. When such circumstances occur, the school wants to know about it and to look into the situation in order to resolve things speedily as is possible and appropriate. In most cases the first person you need to contact is your child's teacher, this can be done, either by class dojo, by phoning the school, or by emailing the main office. The aim of such an approach is to achieve a mutually agreed outcome.

In all situations we request that you contact the school first. We request that your first port of call is not a WhatsApp group or other forms of social media. Social media is not a suitable place for individuals to resolve an issue. We are aware that comments can sometimes be offensive and may not reflect what might be said in an actual discussion. Furthermore, sometimes offensive comments are made about other parents or children and this is most inappropriate.

LIBRARY NEWS ...

Exciting update to share...

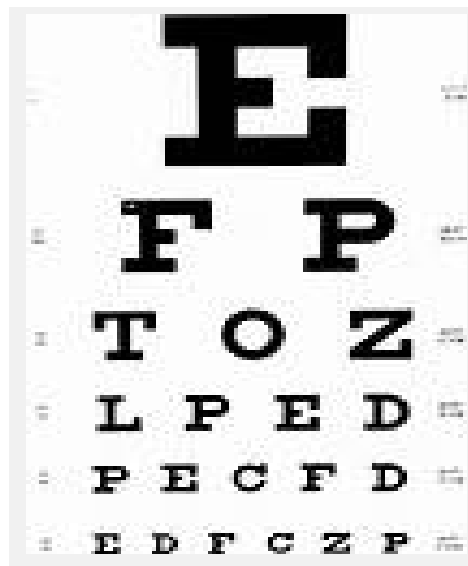
We have made a fantastic start on creating a brand new library space for your children (and eventually you too) to enjoy - a special thanks to Mr Morris our Premises Manager, and Mrs Thomas who have helped to make this happen. We are so looking forward to using this space - many children have already visited this week and loved finding a little nook to curl up with a book in.



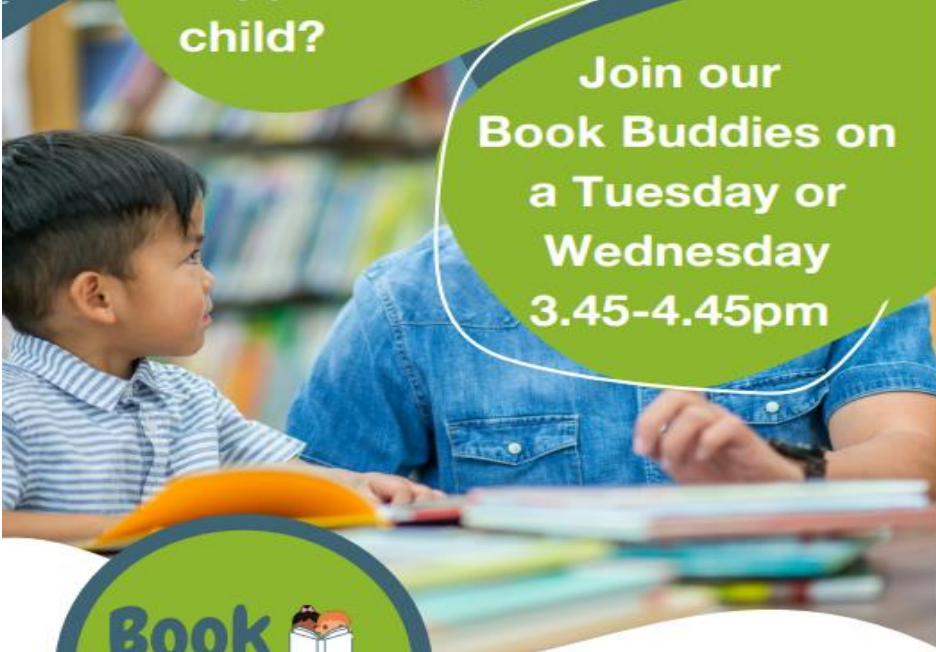
Has your child had their eyesight checked recently?

Eye tests for primary aged children are free – if your child's eye sight has never been checked or has not been checked for more than 1 year, we would urge all parents/carers to book an appointment with their local optometrist soon.

As always with medical appointments, please arrange these as early or as late in the day (preferably after school) as possible. Thank you



All Saints Church, Rectory Lane are taking part in the London Open House Weekend celebrating architecture and neighborhoods this Saturday 10th September and will be welcoming the public from 10am – 4pm.



Interested in
1:1 reading
support for your
child?

Join our
Book Buddies on
a Tuesday or
Wednesday
3.45-4.45pm

Book Buddies

Starting 20th September
Blackfen
Community Library

=

We are excited to be re-starting our Book Buddies project at Blackfen Community Library. This is a volunteer led fun session that will give children the opportunity to have 1 to 1 reading support from a Book Buddy! The children will need to be signed up by a parent or guardian in the library on a Book Buddy day and then they will be paired up with one of our volunteers for the session. They will read books together and spend lots of time in discussion about the pictures and stories to help bring the book to life. There are also games and word fun that they can take part in too. If you think this would be of benefit to any of your children then please contact us directly:

hello@blackfencommunitylibrary.org

Book Buddies is starting on Tues 20th and Wed 21st September 3.45-4.45pm.

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More from **Blackfen Library** ...

Friday 9th September	Year 5	Friday 16th Sept	Parents only
16:00-17:00		16:00-17:00	
11+ Question Practice		11+ Drop-in Parent Q&A	

11+ **FREE!**

Explore Learning

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Inspiring maths and English workshops to help children discover the magic of learning.

LIMITED SPACES BOOK TODAY!

Book on Eventbrite - Blackfen Community Library

Blackfen Community Library

explorelearning.co.uk | explorelearning | @exploretutors | @explorelearning_official

We also have Explore Learning coming in (at Blackfen Library) to do a couple of 11+ activity sessions for Year 5 children and their parents – if you are interest please email: hello@blackfenlibrary.org

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For children Years 1 to 6 – please contact C4F directly to sign your child up for this fabulous club!

C4F CONCEPT 4 FOOTBALL
www.concept4football.co.uk

Principal: Mrs Sara Donnelly

**Hope Community School
Multi Sports Club**
Wednesday 21st September - Wednesday 19th October
3.30-4.30pm
Open to children from Years 1-6
£32.50 for the full course

Name..... School Year.....
Contact Name / Number.....
Email.....
Medical Info.....
Parent Signature.....

To register interest please email
info@concept4football.co.uk

For more information please contact
BILL@CONCEPT4FOOTBALL.CO.UK



Current value – ‘Acceptance’

Principal: Mrs Sara Donnelly

Our value this week and going into next week is ‘Acceptance’. This value reminds us to celebrate diversity and inclusion and to consider our own differences and similarities. We might all have differences, whether they are differences in gender, appearance, ability or even differences in our beliefs and values. We will be showing children that these differences can be accepted and even celebrated and that inside we all have feelings, fears, hopes, and dreams.

We are reminded that some people are fearful of diversity and difference, but that here at Hope, we are encouraged to challenge discrimination in all its forms. Over the next week we will continue looking at this value with the children and will encourage them to think about why acceptance matters and what acceptance looks like. You may wish to continue these conversations at home.

Prompts and ideas for discussions at home:

- Read or listen to the book [We are all Wonders by R. J. Palacio](#) and talk about what makes everyone in your family unique.
- When it arises, acknowledge differences but emphasise and celebrate similarities and strengths.
- Brainstorm ideas for how to foster acceptance in our communities and homes.
- Read books with your child that celebrate diversity.

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”
Colossians 1:16-17

Safeguarding Contacts

Are you worried about a child? Speak to the Principal or another member of staff.

Everybody is responsible for Safeguarding

Call: 0208 303 7777 – Bexley Safeguarding

You can call at any time if you are worried there is a risk of significant harm to a child or young person. Out of hours you will be connected to the Bexley Emergency Duty Service.

In an Emergency call 999

Safeguarding Officers:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Sara Donnelly



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:
Mrs Claire Jones (Family Liaison Officer) & Mrs Emma Carvosso (Deputy Principal)

Email: enquiries@hopecommunityschool.org
School telephone number: 0203 223 2000



Dates for your diary ...

September:

Principal: Mrs Sara Donnelly

Tuesday 13 th	Secondary Transfer Tests
Thursday 15 th	Swimming lessons start – years 4 & 5
Friday 16 th	8.55 Celebration/Lovely Hats Collective – Parents/Carers welcome
Monday 19 th	Breakfast Club re-opens
Wednesday 21 st	Afterschool C4F Multisports Club starts – Years 1 to 6
Thursday 22 nd	9.00am -10.30am – Parent/Principal 1:1 meetings
Wednesday 28 th	3.15pm meet the teacher, details to be sent via dojo

October:

Tuesday 4 th	9.30 am Open morning – Prospective Parents
Thursday 6 th	9.00am -10.30am Parent/Principal 1:1 meetings
Tuesday 11 th	1.30pm Open afternoon – prospective parents
Monday 10 th - 14 th	End of term Class Collectives
Friday 14 th	Harvest Collective – Details to follow. Parents/Carers welcome
Tuesday 18 th	Changemakers/Waymakers – Shared Collective – Parents/Carers welcome
Thursday 20 th	Creators/Pathfinders/Discoverers – Shared Collective – Parents/Carers welcome

November:

Wednesday 2 nd	1.30pm Open afternoon – Prospective Parents
Tuesday 8 th – 10 th	Parent/Teacher consultations – details to follow
Wednesday 9 th	School Photographer – individual shoot by Kittle Photography
Tuesday 29 th	9.30 am Open morning – Prospective Parents

December:

Thursday 1 st	6.00pm Open evening – Prospective Parents
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