

# Newsletter

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Families,

It seems hardly possible that we have reached the end of our first half term of 2023 already and halfway through the academic year - how time flies! It has been a great term here, the children have been enthusiastically getting stuck into the life and learning of the school and I have been a very proud Principal when embarking on learning walks to see how engaged children are in their work. You will see later in the newsletter that I am sending out a survey to all parents to seek your views on the school's strengths and where you would like to see further improvements. Please do contribute, as I very much value your opinions and want to ensure that your views are always considered when deciding on next steps for the school. In the meantime, have a wonderful, restful half term and I look forwards to seeing you all when we return.

With warmest regards,

**Sara Donnelly - Principal**

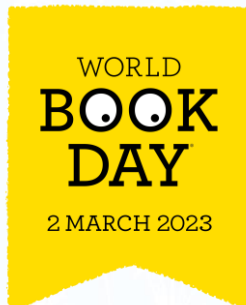


## Parent Consultations Week beginning March 13<sup>th</sup>

These will run in the same format as we did for our Autumn meetings, starting at 1:15pm. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the office two weeks before. You will be informed when these are available.

The days for the sessions are as follows:

<b>Changemakers</b>	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Waymakers</b>	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Creators</b>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Pathfinders</b>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Discoverers</b>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March



Save the date...

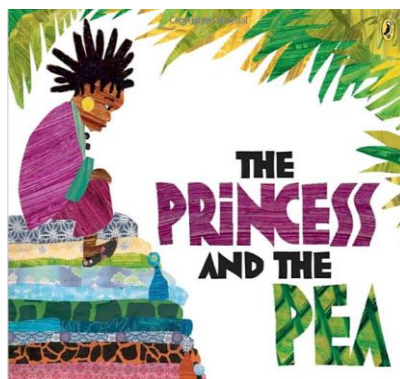
**WORLD BOOK DAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> 2023.**

Children can **come to school wearing an outfit** related to a book character, favourite book etc. Please don't feel you need to specifically go out and buy something special for the day, if your child prefers then they can come into school wearing own clothes or uniform instead. Own clothes need to be suitable for a day in school please.

\*If your child has PE on this day then please send them in with their kit to change into for the afternoon.

**Book costume give away**...if your child has outgrown their last outfit and you would like to donate it to school to be passed onto someone else then please drop these into school by the morning of Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. We will be making these available to families at the end of the day.

**Calling all book lovers**...if you would like to come and share your favourite book or part of one, then please sign up in the office from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and we will contact you about coming into school on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.





## Art Gallery

I am excited to let you know that on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**, we will be hosting an 'art gallery' in the hall. After school, you can collect your children and head straight up there. Each class will have a table and will be showcasing art that they have been creating this year – it is a great opportunity for you to come and see their learning!

Miss Matthews



Dear Families,

It is very important to us here at Hope Community School that your views and opinions are considered when we review our provision for the children and our community. Please take a few moments to complete the following survey using the link below to let us know your thoughts on what we do well and what you would like to see going forwards.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/VXAA81/>

Best wishes  
Mrs Donnelly  
**Sara Donnelly - Principal**

## *New Parent Support Group*

**1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023**  
**9.15am-10.15am**



We are delighted to be able to inform you that the popular Parent Support Group with host, Val Marriott will be back after half term on the dates shown above. These sessions are for parents/seeking advice and guidance with daily challenges that we all know parenting can bring. Val Marriott has been running these sessions for many years, helping parents/carers in the local area. Val is now a retired teacher, a mother of 2 and grandmother to 3 children. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Topics to be included:

**Managing anger – parents and children**  
**Children and anxiety – how to recognise and help**  
**All you need is love – looking at love languages**

Please let the office know if you would like to attend 1, 2 or all 3 sessions.  
EVERYONE is welcome!

Coffee, tea, biscuits and a smile will be provided ☺

Review from a past attendee:

*"I really enjoyed these sessions, it was good to hear that other people experience similar situations to my own and this made me feel that I was not the only one. I was able to listen to different ways other people had dealt with things, which gave me alternative ideas and some of which I was able to put into practice and which really helped. Not everything was for me and my child/ren, however there were things that I had not thought of and some things covered that I knew I had been doing which gave me reassurance and a 'pat on the back'. It was a relaxed atmosphere and I really did appreciate the coffee made for me and the biscuits on offer. I never felt under pressure to talk and could just listen. There was even an option to talk to Val privately afterwards if I needed. Little golden nuggets of information was all I needed to make a difference to my 'every day'!"*



**LAST FEW SPACES REMAINING**

## Gymnastics Club starting Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February

We are delighted to announce a new gymnastics club after school club being brought to us by SYL Sports. The club will run on Monday's from 3.15-4.15 - starting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February. The cost of the club is £32.50 per half term.

The payment item on Parentpay is live so Parents/Carers can book children. The club will be for years 2-6 and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. To secure a place you will need to log onto Parentpay to pay and reserve the space.



## Prayer morning – Parents

These will be starting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 9am to 9.30am in the Prayer Room with Paul Weston.

## Gardening Club – Years 3-6 starting after half term

Wanted! Pre-loved gardening tools!

With the start of our new gardening club after half term and a new gardening element to our outdoor learning we are seeking donations of new or used gardening tools. If you have any of the following that are unloved or unwanted, please bring them in for us to use here at Hope - there will be a large bucket/box outside the main office for the first week back after half term.



- \* spades
- \* hand forks
- \* trowels
- \* watering cans
- \* gardening gloves
- \* rakes
- \* small food waste caddies



We look forwards to sharing the development of our gardening area as it progresses next term.





# A big THANK YOU from the Pathfinders!

Thank you for buying our marshmallow pops and  
for donating to our fundraiser.

**We raised £111!**

We have donated to UNICEF. It will buy supplies that will help refugee  
children remain in school. The Boy at the Back of the Class has been a  
very inspiring book and we encourage all to read it.



167 Rectory Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5BU

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## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Pupils have been marking Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week with discussions on the topic of 'Let's Connect'. The children have been exploring and discussing what it means to make meaningful connections and why it is so important. As human beings, we thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing.

Children have also taken time in class to explore coping strategies to help promote mental health.

If you would like to continue the conversation at home, please use the following link:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>







We would like to say a huge

**THANK YOU**

to all our Hope families and friends for your continuous support. The school and children benefit greatly from all donations. We are very pleased to let you know that because of your generosity, the PTA have recently given Hope...

**£3,244!**

This has paid for:

1. Cribbs - who work with children every week supporting their wellbeing and confidence.
2. Sensory room equipment.
3. USB visualiser for every classroom to enhance learning through interactive lessons.
4. Easi headphones to go with all the laptops.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE!!**

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# Earth Matters

**Friday 10th February 2023**

Hello, welcome to our first Eco newsletter! We have so many exciting things to share with you! The Earth Matters children have completed an environmental audit of the school looking at 10 different topics such as energy, transport and water. The audit showed the areas we could focus on to help achieve the Eco Schools Green Flag Status.

We are going to focus on...

**WASTE, SCHOOL GROUNDS and BIODIVERSITY**

## Action 1 - Waste

We noticed the bins around school are not being used properly. We want to increase awareness within school and to the wider school community, focusing on recycling, food and textile waste. More to follow!

## Action 2 - School Grounds

Hope is soon to have a Meadow School! Outdoor learning is vital for our health and wellbeing. The children will be creating a garden to grow our own food on site, and fundraising to buy our own school composter. We will also be starting a gardening club!

## Action 3 - Biodiversity

Biodiversity in the UK is decreasing at an alarming rate. We want to help insects, animals, plants and trees thrive at Hope!

## Did you know?

Hope have recently received an energy grant to repair the boiler to save money and energy. PLUS all school lights will be replaced with LED energy saving bulbs to help reduce our environmental impact on the planet!

**Earth Matters  
Collective**

**Friday 3rd March  
All welcome!**

**Gracelyn,  
Year 3, says...**

"If we don't save the environment and keep cutting down trees it will be bad for our atmosphere!"



## NOTICEBOARD

Look out for our Eco noticeboard in the hall upstairs! We will update it regularly with progress on our projects and how you can help the planet at home!







# Earth Matters



Put your rubbish in the right bin!

Reduce your Plastic

Reduce  
Reuse  
Recycle



Reuse  
your  
plastic





# Save the Planet!

## Why

- If we don't the planet will be destroyed
- There won't be many people on the planet
- We could kill the animals

so we can do this!  
(if we hurry)

## how?

- Stop littering! 😊
- Make a poster! 😊  
(like this one)
- Tell people to stop doing what they are doing now 😊
- do a show that tells people to stop hurting the environment 😊

if we save it



The earth before



after





## **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](mailto:hello@blackfencommunitylibrary.org)

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## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### February

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	STAFF TRAINING – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Back to School for pupils
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	‘Art Gallery’ – in the hall after school
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Yr6 Trip, Natural History Museum: 24/02/23
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	‘Little Sparks of Hope’ Toddler club 09.00-10.30am
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Gymnastic Club starts – 3.15 – 4.15


### March

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Parent Support Group No 1 (am)</i>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Book Day – book character costume (non-uniform)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	‘Little Sparks of Hope’ Toddler club 09.00-10.30am
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Discoverers Reading Breakfast for parents/children
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	‘Little Sparks of Hope’ Toddler club 09.00-10.30am
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Parent Support Group No 2 (am)</i>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Parent Support Group No 3 (am)</i>
	Parent/Teacher Consultations: <b>Creators</b> (Yr 3/Yr 4) (pm)
	Parent/Teacher Consultations: <b>Pathfinders</b> (Yr4/Yr5) (pm)
	Parent/Teacher Consultations: <b>Discoverers</b> (Yr6) (pm)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Consultations: <b>Changemakers</b> (Reception/Yr 1) (pm)
	Parent/Teacher Consultations: <b>Waymakers</b> (Yr 1/Yr 2) (pm)
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	‘Little Sparks of Hope’ Toddler club 09.00-10.30am
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	‘Little Sparks of Hope’ Toddler club 09.00-10.30am
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	LAST DAY OF TERM

### April

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER HOLIDAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	First day back to school – summer term
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Swimming Lessons start – Year 6

### May

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bank holiday
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bank holiday – King’s  Coronation
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	STAFF TRAINING – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> -02/06	HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED

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## Uniform/Safety:

Just a reminder to ensure that your children do not come to school wearing hooped earrings (these should be small studs), bracelets, rings or necklaces. Long hair should be tied back.

## 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](mailto: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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