



Hope Community School

Newsletter

Friday 19th January 2024

Dear Families

First of all, a very Happy New Year to you all - I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are feeling rested and ready for the term ahead. Here at Hope, we have been talking lots about New Year's Resolutions and how we can link those to our Christian values. As you know, we have values which we explore with the children regularly, such as kindness, hope, respect, joy and generosity and these underpin everything we do here at school. We have been talking about how to use these values to shape our goals for our coming year and, rather than making New Year's resolutions such as 'I will hit the gym 5 times a week', we have been thinking about who we want to be as people and how we want others to see us. I am not embarrassed to admit that I shared with the children that my New Year's Resolution is to be more patient - a trait which doesn't always come naturally to me. I hope the children share their ideas with you at home, as they have been speaking so eloquently about this in school. In the meantime, have a wonderful term and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Kind regards

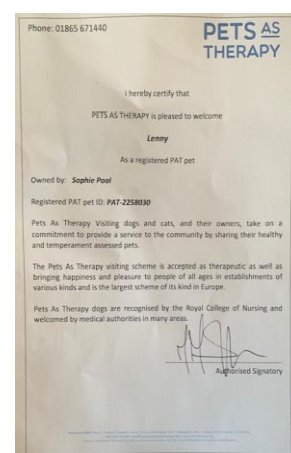
Sara Donnelly - Principal

Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Meet 'Lenny' ... Hope's very own Therapy Dog!

We are very excited to announce the newest member of the Hope team - Lenny the Therapy dog. Lenny will be in school on Fridays with Miss Pool and will work with individual children as part of our pastoral team – helping those with emotional difficulties such as anxiety or bereavement. Lenny has a lovely temperament and has undergone training to also help children build confidence and develop social skills – we are pleased to report that Lenny has passed with flying colours! 😊



167 Rectory Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5BU

Principal: **Principal: Mrs Sara Donnelly**

T: 020 3223 2000

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W: www.hopecommunityschool.org



School Attendance Matters!

It is the responsibility of Parents/Carers to contact the school office by 8.30am by leaving a message on the school answerphone or emailing:

enquiries@hopecommunityschool.org if their child/ren are too unwell to attend.

Week beginning 15th January 2024

Discoverers	92.1%
Waymakers	93.3%
Creators	92.3%
Pathfinders	90.6%

Well done **Waymakers !!**

If they are not in school, they cannot learn!



There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-at-schools). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

Lateness

Week beginning 8th -12th January

Discoverers	6 children late
Waymakers	13 children late
Creators	13 children late
Pathfinders	12 children late

In the week beginning 8th January, there were 98 incidents of lateness by 44 children and 13 hours and 7 minutes of precious learning time lost due to lateness! ☹ Potentially causing anxiety for the children and extra work for staff and catering staff.

Request for Lego Sets

(Ages 3-5, 6-8, 4-99 ;-)

If you have any **complete lego sets** that your child/ren no longer play with or have grown out of we would love to receive them for our Lego Club. Thank you!





ATTENDANCE WATCH

Dear Parents/carers

You may be aware of the Department for Education drive to improve school attendance nationally. Consequently, Bexley Education Welfare is working in partnership with our school community to improve our standards. Over the coming weeks and months, we will be reviewing our existing systems and processes to ensure that they meet the Department for Education guidance for schools. Please look out for any updates on our measures in future newsletters.

We appreciate your continued help and support in ensuring that your child comes to school every day so that they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

Attendance Guide for Parents/Carers

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.30am **each day** of your child's absence.

Please try to keep medical/dental appointments outside school hours. If this is not possible, tell the school in advance and bring in appointment cards/letters/prescription receipts.

If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Have a backup plan for your child if for any reason you are unable to bring them into school yourself, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.



Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs ...

Our Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs are thriving! Thank you to everyone who have used and are using these popular clubs. Booking form and payment must be received in advance of the booking.



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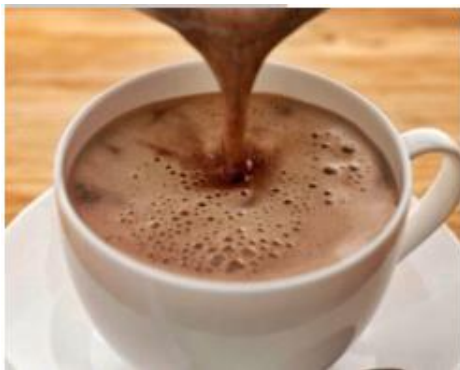
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Hot chocolate afternoons ...

Please come and enjoy a hot chocolate and a story with your child.
You are invited into the classroom to share a book with the children on the dates below.
Please sign in at the office at 3pm prompt.

Waymakers - 26.01.24
Creators - 02.02.24 (+ poetry recital)
Pathfinders - 06.02.26



Parent's Workshop

Thursday 25th January
9.00am-10.30am
Hope Community School
Community Room

'How to Help Your Anxious Child'

Join Val Marriott in this parenting workshop on how to help your child when they are dealing with anxiety.

Free refreshments provided.

Please contact the office if you would like to attend.

More Parent Workshops are being planned.

Subjects will include:

- Bullying
- Challenging behavior
- Communication
- Boundaries

Please register your interest with the school office. If there are other topics you would like to explore, please do let us know and we see if these can be accommodated.



Waymakers trip to Blackfen Library this week ..



"I was very proud of our Waymakers today; their behavior and manners were exemplary. The children were engaged and enthusiastic. A good time was had by all".

*Thank you Waymakers".
Miss Matthews*



Support Groups and Forum in Sidcup and Bexley

While Christmas is a joyous occasion for many, it can also bring additional financial and emotional pressures. Here at Hope our Family Liaison Officer, Jacqueline Anglin, is here to talk to if you need any support and she can signpost you to a range of helpful services and forums. These may include:

Bexley Food Bank

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/bexley/>

Blackfen Library Community Fridge

<https://blackfencommunitylibrary.org/community-fridge/>

Bexley Local Council – Cost of Living Support

<https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/cost-living/help-cost-living>

Mind

<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/>

The Samaritans

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

"TOO OFTEN WE UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A TOUCH, A SMILE, A KIND WORD, A LISTENING EAR, AN HONEST COMPLIMENT, OR THE SMALLEST ACT OF CARING, ALL OF WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO TURN A LIFE AROUND."

- LEO BUSCAGLIA



**RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION***
www.randomactsofkindness.org

The staff and children were delighted to arrive at school earlier this week to discover that a brand-new speed-o-metre has been put in place outside of the school building. After 18 months of campaigning, it seems the council have finally taken action and we are one step closer to a safer road for our children. We are still hoping for a reduced limit to 20mph, however we are very happy that our voices have been heard. Well done to all those that helped the campaign!



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AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS (SPRING)

Join us at Concept4Football's after school club at Hope Community School!

Our program provides a fun and safe introduction to sports, giving children the opportunity to learn new skills and techniques while enjoying the games with their friends. Our experienced coaches work from a carefully designed syllabus and are dedicated to creating a positive and inclusive environment for all participants. Sessions are 3:30 to 4:30.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to develop your child's passion for sport!

Wednesdays, Multi-sports, R - Y6, 10 January to 7 February, £32.50

Wednesdays, Multi-sports, R - Y6, 21 February to 20 March, £32.50

Visit us at www.concept4football.co.uk



Child's name: _____

Child's year: _____

Medical information: _____

Contact name & number: _____

Email address: _____

Please complete and return to the school office,
with payment, in a named and sealed envelope.



Spring Term

For Boys & Girls

After School Football Club

- ✓ Fun and safe environment
- ✓ Practice and develop technical skills
- ✓ Coaches deliver enjoyable sessions
- ✓ Match time included in the sessions



THURSDAYS 18 JAN - 21 MAR

- 9 Sessions - 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
- Excluding 15th February
(use of indoor hall on darker evenings)

PRICING: £7.50 PER SESSION
Booked termly in advance

FREE TASTER SESSION ON 11 JAN
ALSO AVAILABLE TO BOOK ONLINE!



For Boys & Girls
In School Years 1 - 6

Hope Community School

167 Rectory Lane, Sidcup, DA14 5BU

For bookings



01689 828385



SKILLSACADEMYLTD.COM

**AVAILABLE
TO BOOK
ONLINE FROM
11 DECEMBER**

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Dates for your diary

January:

Thursday 25 th	Parent's Anxiety Workshop: 9.00am-10.30am
Friday 26 th	Waymakers (Yr 1 / 2) Hot Chocolate Reading Afternoon: 3.00pm
Monday 29 th	Hope C.S. -v- Orchard P.S. Yr 5/6 Boys Football Match – more info to follow

February:

Friday 2 nd	Creators (Yr 3 / 4) Hot Chocolate Reading Afternoon plus poetry recital: 3.00pm
Tuesday 6 th	Pathfinders (Yr 5/ 6) Hot Chocolate Reading Afternoon: 3.00pm
Thursday 8 th	Music Collective
Friday 9 th	Whole school Mental Health Walk
Monday 12 th -16 th	HALF TERM
Monday 19 th	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – Inset Day
Tuesday 20 th	Pupils return to school
	Dental Survey – selected pupils
Wednesday 21 st	Pathfinders (Yr 5 / 6) Trip to Natural History Museum
Tuesday 27 th	Parent/Teacher Consultations – more info to follow
Wednesday 28 th	Parent/Teacher Consultations – more info to follow

March:

Thursday 7 th	World Book Day – children to dress as their favourite book character.
Friday 8 th	Mothers' Day Collective – all mums, grandmothers and other significant role models welcome.
Friday 22 nd	Halfway Dinner – Year 3 – more info to follow
Wednesday 27 th	Hope Easter Show
Thursday 28 th	LAST DAY – TERM FINISHES @ 1.30pm

April:

Monday 15 th	Pupils return to school
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FOOTBALL FEVER!

HOPE C.S. -V- ORCHARD P.S.

Monday 29th January

Venue: Orchard Primary School

Kick-off: 3.30pm

(more info to follow)

The newly established football teams are stepping up their weekly training in anticipation of our first inter-school matches this term. The year 5 and 6 boys' team will be playing a friendly match against Orchard Primary School on Monday 29th January. The girls will be playing their match against Orchard Primary after the half term (date to be confirmed). More details will be sent to the parents of the children attending the match next week.



Save the Date

To recognise Children's Mental Health Week we are inviting you to join us on Friday, the 9th February, when we'll be taking a whole school walk in the meadows in the afternoon. More details to follow.