October 2026

HOPE COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM MRS CARVOSSO

What an incredible start to the school year! We were absolutely delighted by how beautifully the children have settled into their new routines, especially our Reception class. From the very first week, the classrooms have been buzzing with energy, kindness, and a wonderful eagerness to learn.

Our days have been absolutely packed with adventure, creativity, and discovery. Listed here are just a few of the fantastic highlights from this half term which include some exciting class visits, Year Six enjoying Forest School and using the bow saw, taking part in cooking activities and immersion days allowing the children to deep dive into their topics through creative costumes, role play activities and hands on learning.

We are so proud of the independence, confidence, and teamwork the children have shown over the last few weeks. Well done to also having two straight days of 100% attendance across the school – that is something to celebrate!

Thank you for your continued support in making this such a successful and joyful half term.

Have a wonderful, restful break, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed for the next half term!

Mrs Carvosso 🍂✨



OCTOBER DATES

Mon 19- Fri 23
HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED

Sun 31st
Secondary Sch applications deadline

NOVEMBER DATES

Monday 2nd
First day back to school

Wednesday 4th
Parent Consultations

Wed 11th
Yr 6 Chislehurst Caves Trip

Friday 13th
School Photos - Individual
Netball match: away
Hope v West Lodge - 3.30 - 3.30

Tues 24th
Netball match: more info to follow.

Please see more dates on last page.

Deadlines for School Applications through Bexley:
for children starting in September 2027

Secondary School: **31st October 2026**

Primary School: Friday 15th January 2027
Please see Bexley Council Website.

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Online Safety & Gaming

SWGfL
Safe, Secure, Online

Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.





Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!



Benefits of Gaming

1. Can develop critical and creative skills
2. Can bring educational benefit and awareness
3. Is available to most audiences and family members
4. Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others

Considerations for Gaming

1. Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
2. Parental awareness around purchasing
3. Active discussions around socialising safely
4. Reporting harmful or offensive content online

Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

1. It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
2. There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
3. It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
4. It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others



Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

1. Report the player or piece of content
2. Mute or block the player
3. Manage their privacy settings or communication options
4. Speak with a trusted adult for support



To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub: swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/

or scan the QR code

Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content: reportharmfulcontent.com

Professionals Online Safety Helpline | Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service | Report Harmful Content | UK Safer Internet Centre | NOMINET

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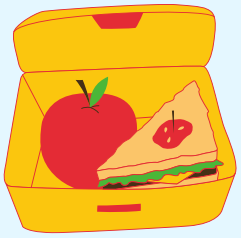
School Trips - Packed Lunch Requests

We would like to remind parents/carers that packed lunch requests for school trips need to be completed in a timely manner.

When the information for the trips are sent out consent needs to be provided via Arbor.

Packed lunch requests need to be completed via Google Form which will be supplied.

Late requests will not always be able to be accommodated.



Community Cupboard

Don't forget that we have the community cupboard in the school office area with items in it for you to take as needed. There is also a clipboard if you want to suggest any particular items that would be good for us to provide. Of course, you are more than welcome to drop items in to be used in the cupboard too – leave them on the top in the box so the items can be logged correctly.



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Dear Families

I hope that the first half of term has been good to you and you are looking forward to a short break with your children where you can reflect on all their achievements to date.

Since 16 September, we have been posting 'Wellness Wednesday' ideas via do-jo for you and your children to enjoy together. At a time where life's pressures seem unrelenting, these suggested activities come with no financial cost to you and encourage you and your child(ren) to put down devices, switch off the TV and just spend a few minutes focussing on togetherness and positive communication.

Below is an example of the most recent Wellness Wednesday post. Why not give it a go!

I hope you and your families have lots of fun activities this half term.

All the best,

Jacqueline Anglin

Family Liaison Officer

🌈 Wellness Wednesday: Be Active! 🏃‍♀️💚

This Wellness Wednesday, we're encouraging our families to Be Active together! Being physically active can help us feel happier, calmer and more positive, as well as giving us a chance to spend quality time together.

🏡 Your family challenge:

Choose a fun activity to do together at home. You could:

- 💃 Have a family dance party to your favourite songs
- 🌳 Go for a walk and see what you can spot along the way
- ⚽ Play football, catch or another favourite game
- 🧘 Try some family yoga or stretching
- 🐻 Make up your own silly movement game!

It doesn't need to be long or complicated — 10 minutes of moving together can make a difference. The most important thing is to have fun and enjoy being active together!

💬 Talk together afterwards:

"How did being active make you feel?"

Let's get moving, have fun and look after our minds and bodies together! 🌟

#WellnessWednesday #BeActive #MentalHealthAndWellbeing #FamilyWellbeing

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Dear Parents/carers

Prior to the end of last term, we were invited to join the **Bexley Mental Health Support Team (MHST)** in Schools Programme. You may have seen some posters on the school noticeboard.



The aim of the MHST programme is to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the children and young people at our school and schools across the Borough. The service is delivered in partnership with the school, by professionals with specialist training in early intervention for children and parents/carers.

At its core, interventions for parents/carers focus on common behavioural problems they experience with their children as well as dealing with their children's fears and worries. This is delivered via workshops, online and occasionally 1:1. Whilst for children in years 5/6, they may be offered groupwork or 1:1 intervention focusing on anxiety or low mood.

If you would like to learn more about this service and how it might assist you and your child, please register your interest at the school office.

WHATS ON THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM

See what events and activities are running in Bexley's Libraries

https://arena.yourlondonlibrary.net/web/bexley/whats-on#/?location=Central%20Library&location=Erith%20Library&location=Sidcup%20Library&targetAudience=Children

The Exchange is a community-led arts, crafts, and cultural hub located in the Grade II-listed former Edwardian library on Walnut Tree Road in Erith, Southeast London.

Activities & Events
Regular Weekly Groups: Free Thursday Crafters Club, Thursday Board Games, Family Art Club, and various yoga or movement classes.
Creative Workshops: Rotating sessions spanning pottery, embroidery, watercolour painting, and seasonal craft classes.

https://www.theexchangeerith.com/

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HOPE COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Exciting Update ...

Hope Community School is proud to announce it is a Beacon School, as part of the School Food Project. We will be embarking on a journey of school food transformation over the next academic year, empowered by recent updates to the government's School Food Standards to make meals healthier and supported by the School Food Project partners to deliver excellent school food.

What this means?

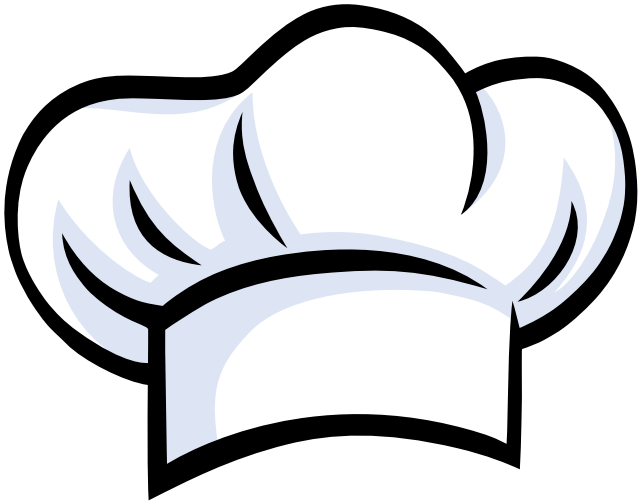
From September, our school kitchen and staff team will be receiving free, hands-on support from the School Food Project to make our meals healthier, improve our whole-school food culture and keep our school community nourished with the fuel they need to succeed.

Why 'Beacon'? What is the School Food Project?

Our goal is to become a Beacon of excellence in school food, from what's being served to our pupils, how we talk about food and embed food education into our daily school life, and improving the whole-school food culture from the food itself to dining settings and pupil engagement. As a Beacon School, we will become a leader in our region and will share our learnings, knowledge and best practices with our wider community of schools.

The School Food Project is a fully funded, whole-school programme delivered by five leading food and education organisations to help schools set the standard for outstanding food: Bite Back, Chefs in Schools, Jamie Oliver Group, School Food Matters, and The Food Foundation. It is a national initiative designed to support schools across England to deliver high-quality food and meaningful food education.

To learn more about the School Food Project, head to:
www.schoolfoodproject.org.uk





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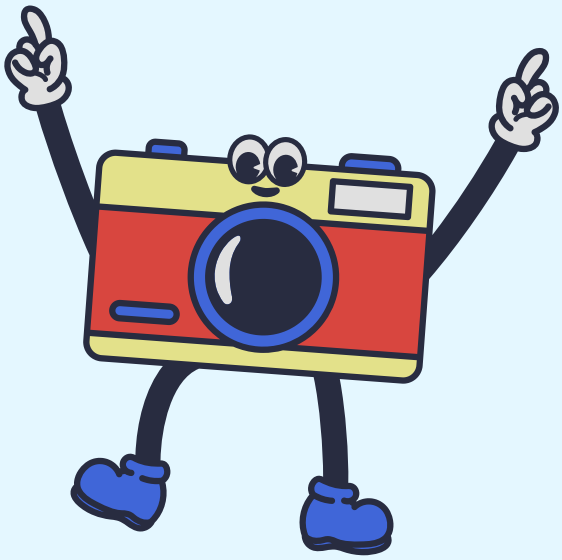
School uniform

We are really grateful to all the kind parents who donate used uniform to us. If you are ever in need of any items, you are more than welcome to pop into the community room and help yourselves. If you wish to pass items on, we just ask that these are washed first please.

Thank you for your support - it is much appreciated.

Reminder:

School Photographers, Kittle Photographic will be in school on **Friday 13th November** to take the children's individual photos.



We need you ...

We are exploring how to improve our attendance in the summer term as last year it really dipped due to days out and holidays. If you haven't already, we would love for you to complete the Google form, sharing your opinion on our October half term.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejroS_MHP2H-KrPSBuGsdTXQ131jRPZaFfrFGzfMnK61l17A/viewform?usp=header

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ELTHAM PALACE TRIP WITH YEAR ONE AND TWO

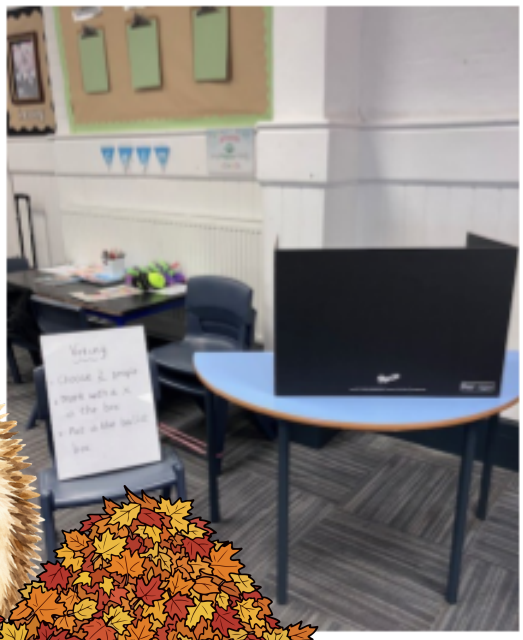


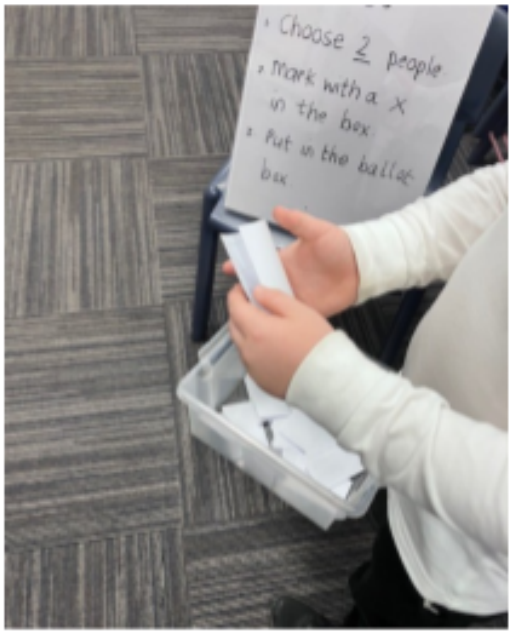


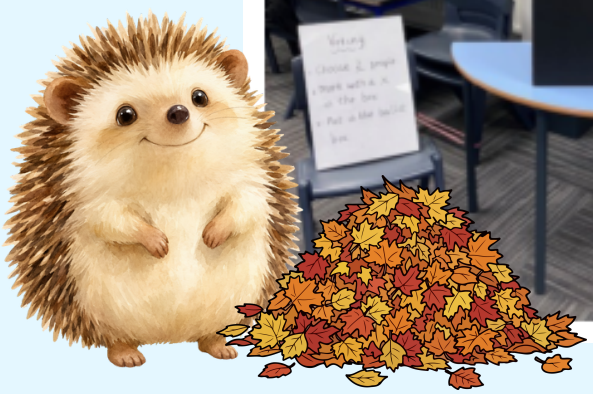


PUPIL PARLIAMENT

Well done to all the new Pupil Parliament representatives. We loved hearing your speeches and your suggestions about what you could do to make the school an even better place. We all took part in voting for who we thought would do a good job representing the class and the group have already performed their first task – looking at their classrooms and suggesting ways to improve particular areas in the rooms.







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BIBLE VERSE

Our Bible verse this half term has been **John 10:10,** where Jesus says:

"I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full."

This verse reminds us that God wants everyone to enjoy a happy, meaningful, and full life. The Bible teaches that when God created the world, people lived closely with Him and experienced His love, peace, and care.

The Bible also tells us that people made choices that took them away from God, which brought sadness, hurt, and difficulties into the world.

John 10:10 helps us remember that Jesus came to show God's love and to help bring people back into a friendship with Him. Through Jesus, we can experience God's forgiveness, love, hope, and the fullness of life that He wants for each one of us.

Throughout this half term, we have been thinking about what it means to live life to the full by showing kindness, gratitude, friendship, and love in our school community.

A prayer written by the Lighthouse Group

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for everything that you did for us. Please help us to follow you daily.
Please protect us from the devil and keep us safe from every evil.
Please come back soon so that there will no more sadness.
Please help people live life to the full by following the Jesus' way.
In Jesus' name
Amen!



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Your paragraph text

On behalf of the Bexley Food Bank, thank you so much for the wonderful donations you have given this Harvest time.

On behlaf of the our PTA, the Seeds of Hope, we thank you very much for all the donations of chocoloate for the Christmas Fair tombola.



We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful and hard working PTA here at Hope. They are always grateful to have helpers assist with the many events put on throughout the academic year, for the sole benefit the children. Being part of the PTA or helping out can be very rewarding! If you would like to help and/or would like more information, please contact the school office

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Summary of dates (more events to follow)

OCTOBER

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd - HALF TERM SCHOOL CLOSED

Sunday 31st - Secondary School application period closes



NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd - First day back to school
Wednesday 4th - Paret Consultations

Wednesday 11th - Yr 6 Trip to Chislehurst Caves



Friday 13th - School Photographer: individuals
Netball Match: away - Hope v West Lodge

Tuesday 24th - Netball match - more info to follow

DECEMBER

Wednesday 2nd - Christmas Panto - Rainbow Theatre Company

Friday 4th - Non-Uniform day - PTA

Thursday 10th - Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
Christmas Dinner
KS2 Carol Service @ 9.30 @ St John's Church

Friday 11th - PTA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 15th - EYFS & KS1 Carol Service @ Hope - 9.15

Friday 18th - LAST DAY OF TERM - SCHOOL FINISHES AT 1.30PM

Wising all our families a wonderful half term break.
See you all on Monday 2nd November.