



Hopelands Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2010

Welcome

A warm welcome back to the start of term to all our parents and children. After some initial weather interruptions, we did manage to start the new term eventually! The children thoroughly enjoyed playing in the snow, especially the Fox Cubs who built a snowman in the playground.

This term we welcome Kenzie Jardine, Lucy Derrick and Ralph Opperman to the school. Kenzie has joined Mrs Naish in class IN, Lucy joins Mr Carter in IIIC and Ralph joins Mrs Prout in Fox Cubs. We hope the children settle in well and are getting used to the daily routine of school.



Independent Schools Association (ISA)

The school is delighted to announce that it is now an official member of ISA. After an accreditation inspection in May 2009, the ISA inspection committee has now approved the school's entrance into the association. The inspection noted that the school had 'effective leadership with strong support' and 'pupils develop into well-adjusted, hard working and confident young people'. The link with the ISA means that the school is now affiliated with the Independent Schools Council (ISC), which is quite a prestigious acclaim. The school will now undergo inspections from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) instead of Ofsted.



Independent Schools Association

New staff e-mail system

To aid communication between parents and staff, the school has set up a new e-mail system. Parents will now be able to e-mail teaching staff directly; whether it be a question about homework or a query about a school trip. **Messages about pupil absence will still need to come through the school office.** As the system is new, the staff may initially take some time to respond to e-mails but we are hoping to improve this as everyone gets used to it. A full list of e-mail addresses is available from the school website here: <http://www.hopelands.org.uk/Board.html>

Update on Staffing

As many parents are aware, there have been a number of changes to the staffing at school this term. We are pleased to report that the situation is much more settled now and hopefully we will have no more unexpected surprises.

We have welcomed Mrs Naish this term who has finally joined us as IN Form Teacher. She has settled in extremely quickly and enjoying the hectic pace of school life.

Mr Carter, unfortunately, has still not recovered. His doctor has advised us that he will not be able to return to work until after half term at the earliest.

Mr William Peak has been appointed as Year 5 Form Teacher for the Spring Term to cover in Mr Carter's absence. Mr Peak has recently returned from a years teaching in New Zealand and comes highly recommended from The Kings School, Gloucester, where he was employed as Year 4 Form Teacher for 3½ years. I know he will be a great asset to the school.

Mrs Bradburn's next operation will be on Wednesday 3rd February. She has responded well to treatment and hopefully will soon see the light at the end of the tunnel. Mrs B is hoping to return after half term and will be leaving the teaching of maths, English and VR in the capable hands of Mrs Silverthorne. The afternoon lessons of spellings, history and ICT will be covered by Mr Peak.

A great deal of effort has been put in to ensure the smooth transition of teachers. While Mrs B is away, Mrs Bostock will be Acting Head. Mrs Bostock will be available for meetings every morning before the start of the school day and after school on Mondays and Tuesdays.

We all wish Mrs Bradburn and Mr Carter well and hope to see them back in school before too long.

We do appreciate that this has been quite a turbulent time and thank you for your continued trust.

History Trip and Workshops

On Wednesday 24th February IVB will be going on a History trip to STEAM, the Museum of the Great Western Railway in Swindon, where they will be taking part in two workshops - Air Raid Experience and Evacuation Experience. This will be an excellent way to increase their understanding of what it was like on the Homefront during World War II. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

On Monday 8th February, Mrs Groves, Ben's grandmother, is coming to talk to the class about her childhood during the war. Firsthand experience is such a valuable source for historical understanding and we are very grateful to her for offering her time in this way and are really looking forward to her visit. The class have already enjoyed a visit from Mr Gordon from the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum to give them an insight into what it was like to be a soldier during the war.

DVDs of performances last term

DVDs of the school Christmas concert and Year 5 and 6 pantomime are in the process of being made and should be with parents shortly. We apologise for the delay.

If you wish to order a copy of either performance, priced at £10 each, please contact Mr Coles in the office. A special thank you to Mrs Boix and Mr Bierer for all of their help.



Haiti Fundraising Week 8th – 12th February

After the devastating earthquake in Haiti on Tuesday 12th January 2010, the school is dedicating the week of 8th February to raising funds for the Haiti Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. The earthquake, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, has killed an estimated 180,000 people and left around 1.2 million people homeless.



The week will end with 'Hats for Haiti' and 'Small Change for Big Change' on Friday 12th February. The children (and staff!) are invited to come to school in any hat they wish for the day for a donation of £1. We will have a prize at the end of the day for the grooviest hat. We also hope to spell Hopelands out in loose change. The children are invited to bring a bag of loose change into school that would be enough to cover an A4 sheet of paper. One sheet of A4 paper in pennies is roughly £1. All the money collected will be donated to the fund.

The children will be running game and activity stalls every morning break time through the week and house cake stalls on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. **Rowling house's cake stall will be on Monday 8th February, Dahl's on Wednesday 10th February and Fine's on Friday 12th February.**

If you would like some more information on donating to the Haiti appeal, please visit http://www.dec.org.uk/donate_now

Fox Cubs learn about people who help us

The Fox Cubs really enjoyed their visit from Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue service on Friday 29th



January 2010. The children got to sit in a fire engine and met Colin the dog who taught them all about fire safety and why we mustn't play with matches. The visit links in with this terms topic 'people who help us' which the Fox Cubs children have been learning about.

The children will also be visited by Gloucestershire Police on Wednesday 10th February who will teach the children about road safety.



IN Dinosaur Sculptures



Using the popular children's storybook "Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish" by Michael Foreman as an initial stimulus, IN have been busy creating their own 3D dinosaurs. As part of a cross curricular project of My Locality/World the children have been thinking about how we can recycle materials and use them again rather than throwing away. Finally we reviewed the fabulous dinosaurs, giving them each a name and described how they looked as well as their individual characteristics. The photograph shows what hard work went into the project. Encompassing many

aspects of the curriculum including Art, Design Technology, Literacy and Numeracy the children followed the principle of "Plan-Do-Review". First of all they thought carefully about the design of their dinosaur taking care to really think about how they wanted it to look and secondly select the best recycled materials that would suit their design. Using their designs as a point of reference the children created these wonderful 3D sculptures and completed them with a coat of paint for the full effect.

Friends of Hopelands

Friends of Hopelands' Popcorn Club was another great success. The children watched the film 'Bolt' whilst enjoying sweets and popcorn. The night raised a whopping £120 for the Friends of Hopelands fund.

The Friends are also planning events on the following:

- Bingo Night – Sophie Hall (adults and children) – Friday 26th February 2010
- Popcorn Club – Friday 19th March 2010

- Easter Fayre, Egg Hunt – Friday 26th March 2010
- Popcorn club – Friday 7th March
- Sponsored 10k run – TBC
- Social evening with auctions – Thursday 20th May
- Summer Jolly – Saturday 3rd July
- Fun run for families – Saturday 18th September

Dates for the diary

Date	Event	Information
11 th February 2010	Cross country	
8 th February 2010	Fundraising for Haiti	Rowling cake stall
10 th February 2010	Police visit in Fox Cubs	
10 th February 2010	Fundraising for Haiti	Dahl cake stall
12 th February 2010	Fundraising for Haiti	Fine cake stall
12 th February 2010	'Hats for Haiti'	Children will need £1 to wear a hat to school
24 th February 2010	Year 6 trip to STEAM in Swindon	Please return slip from letter to the office
25 th February 2010	Cross country	
4 th March 2010	Cross country presentation and fun run	
10 th March 2010	Netball tournament	
11 th March 2010	Book fair	In IIC classroom
11 th March 2010	Dance festival for IVB and Dance Club	Tickets available from Stroud Leisure Centre
13 th March 2010	Cross country	Selection only
15 th March 2010	Parents' evening	More details to be given nearer the time
17 th March 2010	Parents' evening	More details to be given nearer the time
24 th March 2010	AGM	6.00pm in school hall
31 st March 2010	Dance performance at Bacon Theatre	Tickets available from The Bacon Theatre, Dean Close
12 th May 2010	Year 5 and 6 trip to Hayden Water Centre	More details to be given nearer the time