



## Newsletter 9<sup>th</sup> July

To say the last few months have been crazy would be a complete understatement. Schools closing, months of lockdown and the world seemingly turned upside down. As you are aware the teachers worked tirelessly to ensure they could deliver virtual learning to the children and it was fantastic to see such a high engagement rate. Technology not only helped with keeping the children's progress on track, it also ensured that close contact was kept with teachers and friends. Any worries or concerns were discussed in their groups and support strategies put in place.

Due to the dedication and loyalty of our staff we remained open for key worker children and created a safe and fun environment for them. Under the guidelines we were then able to open our doors to Reception, Class 2, and Year 6. Due to our commitment to keeping class sizes small, we were incredibly fortunate that we were able to open to all pupils from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Children are amazing and resilient – they have adapted incredibly well to the social distancing measures which ensure everyone's safety. Friendship, laughter, and happiness has filled the school and we were delighted that, due to the virtual learning timetable that we had introduced during lockdown, the pupils are still on track academically.

It is now time for a well-deserved breather, review what has happened and be ready to move forward in this new world. Although today is tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to our incredible Year 6, it is also full of pride as we look at the caring, kind, resilient young adults they have become.

Thank you for your ongoing support and kindness throughout, the Hopelands community really is rather remarkable. We wish you all a lovely, relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you in the Autumn term.

### In this week:

- Design Technology
- Mini Sports Day
- Thank You
- Year 6
- Friends of Hopelands
- Lockdown Diaries
- Reading Challenge

### Uniform

Schooltogs have advised that they are getting busy with bookings for their personalised visits to store, if you do need uniform please book soon:

[https://hopelands.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Parent-Plan\\_Schooltogs.pdf](https://hopelands.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Parent-Plan_Schooltogs.pdf)

Thank you.



For all the latest pictures and weekly activities please follow our Facebook page  
[@HopelandsPreparatorySchool](#)

## Design Technology

Year 6 have produced some amazing work in their design technology lessons. Their recent challenge was for the children to 'Design a Chair'. They were asked to look at the specific function and design principles and then build their own 3-dimensional model.



# Design Technology



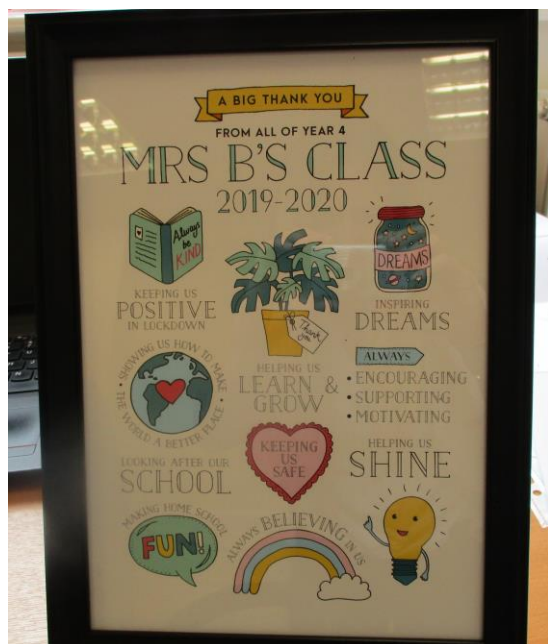
## Mini Sports Day

Year 1 and Year 2 had a mini sports day this week. Events included running, hopping, jumping, throwing and catching. A busy day which the children thoroughly enjoyed.



## Thank You

We have been blown away by all the gifts we have received this week. From hampers to cakes, wine to bath goodies – all amazing and very much appreciated. Your generosity and kindness are outstanding and have made the staff very appreciative of our wonderful community. Thank you!



## Year 6

The girls asked me to put this picture in the newsletter – they were dressing up for the Year 6 video they have been filming, I would say they look mega groovy but that just shows my age and my incredible lack of being cool! To all of Year 6 – you are amazing and always make me smile, we will miss you!



## Friends of Hopelands – Message from the Chair

It's a farewell from me and hello to Jenni Bingham!

After 2 years at the helm of FOH I have decided that for my last year at school I will hand over the reins as chair of Friends of Hopelands. We have managed to put on numerous events over the years to hopefully enhance the children's time here at Hopelands. This, through your huge generosity has allowed us to raise funds for the school and help us to buy many things such as new computers, sound systems and supply oranges for the Christingle! We hope to be able to unveil a new Electronic Smart board in September!

All this could not have been done without your support for our events, so thank you from myself and all at FOH. I would also like to thank all the committee members for their time and commitment it would not be possible without you! The office, especially Sam who I seemed to bother on a weekly basis, thank you for your help and support for FOH. A special mention to my wife George, who has been truly amazing in organising events and having an attention to detail that ensures everything runs smoothly.

Finally, I would like to introduce your new Friends of Hopelands Chair - Jenni Bingham. Jen has been with FOH for over a year now and has a real vigour and enthusiasm to carry FOH forward. I know you will be great!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and we can get back to some form of normality in the new school year.

Best Wishes

Andy Harbottle

From everyone here at school – THANK YOU Andy! You and George have been complete superstars and worked tirelessly to put on fantastic events and raise money which has benefitted the children. All your hard work, time and dedication is very much appreciated and you always did everything with a smile – thank you!



## Lockdown Diaries by Mr Piper

### Lockdown Diaries 15

I slipped out of the building unobserved.

In the pale light of day, I made out an engraved plate beside the entrance and walked over to see what it said. I had expected it to be a commemorative plaque – you know the sort of thing: 'This block was opened by Lord Lamprey in 1974'. Probably with a tin-opener. However, what met my eyes was the information, 'Bishop's Gravery Bouncy Castles Inc. Apply to Uncle B for details.' Bouncy castles. That set me thinking. I pulled out my scout knife, the one I used at school on camping trips and when we had porridge for breakfast and jabbed it into the wall.

Wall, my foot! Instantly air whooshed out with such force that I was shot across the carpark. When I found my feet again, I saw the whole building was soaring into the air like a giant whoopee cushion and heading away to the west. Soon it had disappeared.

Who or indeed what were the poor blighters trapped inside the enormous shrinking balloon? I couldn't say, because I didn't know. What I did know, however, was that I had to reach Bishop's Gravery, so I set off onto the road. As I did so, a figure loomed up in front of me.

'Rudi!' I let out a gasp of astonishment. It was dignified, of course, but full of meaning. 'I saw you yesterday at the briefing.'

'That's just the point,' he responded gloomily, 'you didn't.'

### Lockdown Diaries 16

The tale that Rudi told me as we sauntered boldly down the road towards the Bolt roundabout was a strange one.

Apparently, he had been approached by a film producer to star in a film called 'Double Cross'. The chap was foreign but there is nothing odd about that. Many people are. The film was a thriller with the usual cast of psychopaths, but the particular twist was that every character had a double – not a stunt double or a body double (never used either myself) but an exact double. Rudi McGillarry's oppo was an actor called Rudy McGillarri and it must have been him with whom I'd had the brief chat outside the Albert Memorial. All this double business seemed pretty odd to me and the title double-cross seemed fraught with meaning, an impression which was confirmed when Rudi mentioned, in passing, that the name of the film's director was Nicolai Andreevitch.

'Nicolai Andreevitch!' I burst out, unable to contain myself. 'The Master Spy!'

'Well, yes, I suppose so, I never made that connection, myself. I'm not that bright, I suppose.'

Poor chap he looked utterly depressed, and once he'd started, he had to let it all out. 'I never really wanted to join the 'Team', he went on. 'I'd have been happy as a simple research scientist or a government minister or even, Heaven help me, a schoolteacher ...'

Well! I realised the man was low, but I hadn't clicked that he was *that* low!

**TO BE CONTINUED.....OR MAYBE NOT!**

