



Hopelands Preparatory School

38/40 Regent Street, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 2AD

Newsletter 10th December

Dates for your Diary

December 13th Christmas Show – Y3/4/5/6, 2pm & 4pm

December 14th Christmas lunch & The Jolly Postman! Non uniform day.

December 15th Last Day of school, non-uniform day.

January 10th Back to School!

In this week:

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- Update on Covid
- Year 5 & 6 Hockey
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- Rocket Competition
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Clubs

Please note the following cancellations:

13th December – No football or drama club

15th December – No dance or music club

Lost Property

Please look out for the following lost property items, thank you.

Pink/purple glasses – Florence Hasinski

PE Polo Top & School Tie – Anthony Tiptaft

School Jumper – Arthur Lloyd

PE Coat – Juniper Cook

Navy cardigan (from disco) – Megan How

Spare Clothes

If anyone has any spare children's clothes (between ages 3-6) which they are happy to donate to school, please pass them onto Miss Hurley or Mrs Jobanputra. Also, if your child does have an accident and comes home in spare clothes, including underwear, please remember to return them back to school – our supplies have got very low! Thank you.

For all the latest pictures and weekly activities please follow us on social media:



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Christmas Message from the Head – Mrs Sheila Bradburn



We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits away from the cold and dark weather of the season.

Christmas has always been a magical time for me at Hopelands School and get to share in the Christmas festivities here has been extra special, particularly when I saw the intense excitement on the faces of our younger pupils during the Nativity this week and I am looking forward to the KS2 performances on Monday.

As the term draws to a close, it is with humility and gratitude that I both look back on the term and with barely restrained anticipation look forward to the holidays and next term!

I am sure that pupils, parents would like to join with me in thanking all the staff and governors at Hopelands Preparatory School for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the children of the school. Likewise, we the staff, governors and pupils would like to thank all parents for all your support. Last but in no way the least, we thank our pupils – you are indeed some of the best pupils I have ever had the pleasure of working with.

I pray for and wish everyone peace and happiness in all homes and families during this holiday season – may we all be safe and keep healthy.

Merry Christmas or Season's Greetings to everyone! Enjoy the turkey, the mince pies, the biscuits, and sweets and best of all the lights and carols! See you in January 2022.

Update on Covid by Mrs Jones

Following Boris' announcement on Wednesday of Plan B of the Winter Plan, we have now received updated Covid guidance for schools. Please be assured that we will be following this guidance as set out by the DFE.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation with this. The changes for now mainly include a return to face masks, increased testing, and minimising contact where possible. We will do this as follows:

- **All visitors to the school must wear face coverings and will be encouraged to take a LFT before visiting the school.**
- **Parents and Guardians not to come into the school building unless absolutely necessary. Appointments to talk to staff can be made on Teams and items for children handed over to school staff on the playground rather than inside the school. But we recognise in some cases it is necessary for you to come in, if you do so, please wear a face covering and if possible, do a LFT before you come in. Thank you.**
- **The Christmas concert on Monday is going ahead as planned but all visitors to the concert must wear a face covering and are strongly encouraged to take a LFT before the event.**

We will of course continue to ensure that hand sanitising and thorough cleaning remains part of our daily routines.

Many thanks again for your understanding.

Y5 and Y6 Girls' Hockey vs Berkhamstead by Mr Kirby

The curtain came down on our sporting fixtures for 2021 when we sent every girl in Y5 and Y6 to play hockey against Berkhamstead. The girls were all extremely excited and they grew into the matches. All three teams needed time to 'get going' but, once they did, their skills really started to shine through.

The 'A' team couldn't quite find a goal they deserved but Vandamai, Alice and Matilda all got a special mention from the opposition for their determination and desire to succeed. It was also noted how they kept their positions, creating space and, in turn, problems for our opponents.

The 'B' team deserved a draw and were unfortunate to lose 2-1. Again, they grew in confidence and ability as the match progressed with Eva outstanding in defence. Josie was in the heart of midfield; often winning tackles and going on dangerous runs. It was from one of these runs she fed Holly out wide who hammered the ball into the D which led to our goal. Berkhamstead couldn't get their sticks down quick enough, and it ended up in the back of the net after a deflection from the defender.

The 'C' team also didn't get the draw they deserved as they went down 3-2. Again, it was an impressive performance with Rowan and Imogen scoring our goals. Imogen's was the pick of the matches as she went on a dazzling run, too quick for the opposition, before neatly tucking the ball away.

The weather and conditions were not favourable, but the girls can all be pleased with their performances. Our Y5 pupils have come a long way since the first match back in September!

After Christmas, we will focus on netball and football with several fixtures already in the calendar. We start with one group of U11s going to Beaudesert on January 12th for a football fixture. I would like to wish all the pupils a very happy Christmas and I am thoroughly looking forward to more sporting events in 2022. Mr Kirby



Y5 and Y6 Girls' Hockey vs Berkhamstead by Mr Kirby



Nativity

Well done to all the children (and staff!) in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for putting on such a brilliant Nativity this year. Listening to the laughter and seeing their excitement always makes it a lovely occasion.



Nativity



Head's Tea Party

The children love receiving their invite to the Head's Tea Party and this week Mrs B's office was filled with laughter! It is great to see the friendships form between the Reception children and their Year 6 buddies.



Science by Mrs Stevenson

Year 2 have started a unit about animals and their offspring as part of their science learning. We have been talking about how some animals look like their parents and how others, such as caterpillars, look totally different. We have also been learning the special names that we have for some baby animals.

As a special treat, Mattie's dad (Mr Jones) brought in their four 7-week-old puppies for the children to meet. After we had said goodbye, we drew pictures of the puppies and wrote some sentences to describe them.

The puppies were so adorable that we couldn't let them go home without all the children having a chance to admire them, so each class popped down to the hall to spend a little bit of time with them. The puppies had a super exciting morning and were so tired out from showing off how cute they were that eventually they had to go home for a sleep!



Mrs J's Yoga challenge for all!

The children can learn a range of yoga poses in Mrs J's Yoga club, every Tuesday afterschool.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the office.

Rainbow Pose



Benefits

Stretches arms, abdominals, spine and chest; calms the mind.

- 1 Start on your knees. Raise both hands over your head.
- 2 Drop one hand by your side, exhale and arch your arm over your body.
- 3 Hold this position.
- 4 As you bring your dropped arm back over your head, straighten your body.
- 5 Repeat on other side.

Stonehouse Goodwill Festival

Thank you to everyone who supported the children at the Stonehouse Goodwill Festival last Saturday. They sang beautifully and were fantastic ambassadors of the school.



Rocket Competition by Mrs Stevenson

After Christmas, we will be hoping to get the children involved in a national competition to design a logo for rockets launching from UK spaceports next year. The competition is called **LogoLiftOff** and the entry date is early March.

We would like to create a school version of the competition at the same time and have winners in each year group.

All the information that you need for your child to enter the national competition is on the website: <https://www.logoliftoff.org.uk/>

For the school competition please make sure that you email your child's entry to me (either a scan or a good photo) at jstevenson@hopelands.org.uk Thank you.



Friends of Hopelands by Mrs Bingham

Pantomime Update

As per government legislation all adults attending the pantomime will need to show a covid pass (available using the NHS app) or proof of a negative lateral flow test within 48 hours of the visit. Masks also must be worn throughout the performance and in the building by anyone over the age of 11.

Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets will continue to be on sale at both Christmas performances on Monday at 2pm & 4pm Each ticket is £1 please bring cash. The draw will take place Tuesday morning and winners will be contacted by Jenni Bingham by Tuesday afternoon and prizes can be collected Wednesday.

Prizes include, wine, a beauty voucher, an 8-week Pilates course voucher, a tour and tasting of Woodchester Valley Vineyard, homemade jams and chutneys, a dixie dot voucher, a gingerbread house kit and a voucher for Manor Farm holiday club. Please ensure that your child's name and year group are written on the reverse of your entry tickets (Friend of Hopelands volunteers will be selling at entrance to Sophie Hall). Good Luck!