



Newsletter 11th March

Dates for your Diary

- March 15th** Wildlife quiz at Chalford Hill (4 children)
- March 18th** Mufti Day for Comic Relief
- March 21st** Shakespeare Week
- March 22nd** Netball at St Edwards, Year 3 & 4
- March 23rd** Netball & Football at St Edwards, Year 6
- March 25th** PC Weedon visiting Year 6
- March 25th** Ukrainian Appeal - Teddy & Games Sale and Hamper Raffle

In this week:

- Update by Mrs Bradburn
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- International Women's Day
- Head's Tea Party
- Friends of Hopelands
- Spiritual Arts Competition

Lost Property

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

- School Tie – Anthony Tiptaft
- School Jumper – Arthur Lloyd
- PE Jumper – Ava McDougall
- School Jumper – Ella Turner

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



[HopelandsSchool](#)



[HopelandsPreparatorySchool](#)

Update from Mrs Bradburn

Emer O'Neil

A huge congratulations to Emer who was married after quite a long delay due to covid. The children and staff watched the ceremony live on you tube and shared this special moment with her. I am sure you join me in wishing her and her new husband every happiness for the future.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is upon us again on Friday 18th March. To celebrate the day, the children do not have to wear their uniform and can come in their own clothes for a suggested donation of £1 for Comic Relief. We will mark the day with an assembly for all at school.

Ukraine Crisis

Today, pupils are asking questions and raising concerns. This won't be constrained to history, it will be happening throughout the day: in classrooms, in maths lessons and in corridors.

I have every confidence in teachers to have those discussions. I know from experience working in classrooms myself - that school staff will approach these conversations tactfully and about the individual circumstances of the pupils they teach.

Government ministers point out that this is exactly what their new guidance on **political impartiality in schools** aims to do - officially recognise the role that teachers play in leading difficult conversations, and provide them with support in this area.

This is certainly how education secretary Nadhim Zahawi characterises the new guidance. He has pointed out that discussions about politically contentious topics have, "at times, been difficult for school leaders, teachers and staff, as they navigate how to handle and teach about these complex issues sensitively and appropriately".

The new guidance, he stressed, makes sure that "no subject is off-limits", while providing teachers with clarity about how to remain impartial and discuss issues in "an age-appropriate way, with sensitivity and respect".

Perhaps, though, more fundamentally, we should be thankful that teachers and pupils are in school to discuss these issues at all, when people in Ukraine are facing a future where the simple act of waving your child off at school could suddenly be snatched away.

If any parent is finding these discussions difficult, please find a link below if you need any guidance on how to approach this subject with your child/ children. **How To Talk To Your Child About The War In Ukraine (Young Minds):**

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>



Update from Mrs Bradburn

Ukrainian Appeal

Two Year 6 girls have been so moved by the plight of the Ukrainians, that they wish to raise money to help those people who have lost everything. They have come up with their own ideas on how to achieve this and have presented these to the school at assembly time. They need to be commended for caring so much for others and have written the following message below to you.



'We are Mattie & Josie in year 6 and we would like to raise money for the Ukrainian appeal and are doing this by holding a teddy, books & games sale after school on 25th March. We are also making three different hampers:

- 1. Chocolate and Wine Hamper*
- 2. Gluten and Vegan free chocolate hamper*
- 3. Pamper Hamper*

The first two hampers can be won by buying raffle tickets. These will be available to buy from 3.30 from the 16th March, in the front school playground. The hampers will also be available to see at this time and pictures will be sent to you via email.

The pamper hamper can be won by submitting a sealed bid, please hand these into the office by the 23rd March. The lucky winner will be announced on the 25th March.

To make these hampers as attractive as possible, we would really appreciate any donations such as chocolates, easter eggs, wine, soap, moisturiser, perfume, nail varnish, etc. If you have anything you would like to donate, please hand it to the office by 16th March. Thank you.

For the teddy and games sale, if you have any good quality games and toys which you would like to donate to this, please hand them into the office by the 16th March.

Thank you for you for your support with this, we really hope that we will reach £200!' The money will go to DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Chili Challenge Feedback Summary by Mrs Jones

Today I would like to share the results with you which are overwhelmingly positive and very encouraging indeed. But first, I would like to thank parents, children and teachers very much for completing the recent Chili Challenge Feedback questionnaires. As we continuously strive to improve your children's experiences in class and at home during homework, it has given us very useful insights into everyone's opinions and experiences so far with the new approach. This, coupled with more assessment data that we will be collecting before Easter, will give us a very good idea of the effectiveness and impact the new system has had so far both academically, and on everyone's wellbeing.

So again, thank you very much for supporting us in this.

Parents' feedback summary

Response rate 62% - responses across all year groups (except Reception)

Highlights (answers with 70%+ agreement)

- 74% have seen the Chili Challenge System implemented across all 3 core subjects
- 90% think it is effective in supporting their child's individual needs
- 92% agree that their child has responded positively to the new system
- 76% think that their child is receiving more challenging work as a result

We received a very large number of positive comments which we can interpret as a real endorsement of the new system by you. We really enjoyed reading your comments which were predominately around the increased flexibility, challenge, and choice the system is offering across all levels of ability, effort and competitiveness. Noted in particular is that it encourages the children's individual independence, control and decision making without placing undue additional pressure on achievement and challenge. Some parents also feel that it has had a positive effect on their child's motivation and general excitement about their work.

Areas for improvement suggested by two or three parents were that we should be more observant of the additional pressure it may put some children under. Some homework tasks are noted to be more time consuming since the introduction of the system and perhaps more guidance from teachers is required as to the expected level to be completed and the recommended timeframe for it.

Children's feedback summary (Years 3-6 only)

Highlights (answers with 70%+ agreement)

- 76% enjoy the new Chili Challenge System
- 83% think that the different challenges are helping them learn better
- 92% normally pick their own challenge for homework
- 91% normally pick their own challenge level in class
- 70% say the teacher will tell them to change the level sometimes

When it comes to the level of competition the new system has created in class and whether they prefer to start with mild tasks 66% agree that there is no additional competition and 60% do prefer to start with mild tasks.

46% say they sometimes feel under pressure to complete very spicy or sizzling tasks. 16% feel more pressure and 38% say they do not feel pressured at all.

62% say they have never been upset if they have struggled with a challenge whereas 38% say it has upset them occasionally in school or at home.



Chili Challenge Feedback Summary by Mrs Jones

I would like to share some of the many positive comments from the children about the new system:

'We get stickers', 'I love challenging myself to do better in every subject', 'we can pick our work', 'it helps to sort the difficulty level and is fun', 'it is a fine way to challenge you', 'more options', 'more control', 'easy to understand', 'I very much enjoy the chilli challenge system because it challenges me to work hard and believe in myself because I sometimes never believe in myself', 'I think I have learnt a lot', 'It helps me learn better and make myself more confident'.

Comments that we at Hopelands must now dig deeper into and try to improve on were around the pressure some children feel to complete more challenging tasks, the feeling of some that *'[they] can't do it' or 'feel like [they] don't know much about the subject anymore'*, and *'[they] don't want to get it wrong' or that they 'won't do as well if [they] don't do sizzling'.*

Teachers' feedback summary

- 100% say that the new system has a positive impact on the children's progress in class
- 100% agree that they are able to provide more challenging and differentiated work by using the system
- 71% feel that most children are able to choose the appropriate challenge for themselves without overstretching or underchallenging themselves
- 100% feel the children enjoy the new system
- 71% feel that boys and girls have not reacted differently to the new system with some teachers commenting that they feel boys may have the edge with competitiveness and some say girls appear to be more motivated for the challenges in English
- 85% feel that it is a manageable and sustainable system in terms of planning and marking and personal wellbeing

The main benefits noted by teachers were the ability to create and support a culture of individual challenge, independence and pride in the children's work along with an increase in excitement about the tasks.

Some challenges faced by the teachers are mainly around ensuring the children pick the right level of challenge and that more guidance may be required to ensure children remain excited, motivated and independently challenged.

Actions moving forward:

- Forms teachers to discuss findings with their class and emphasise the importance of working independently but not under pressure and if a task is too difficult it is ok to have a go but also to leave it if it is too hard. Help is always at hand.
- Continue to embed a growth mindset approach which helps children understand that it is actually good to make mistakes – reinforced during assembly time.
- Additional children's questionnaire in the summer term to see if even more children feel at ease with the new system.



Year 5 Enrichment

Congratulations to Year 5 who all completed the British Red Cross First Aid Champions programme in their Enrichment lessons. Well done everyone you were all fantastic!



Music by Mrs Powell



Last Friday Jon, the drum teacher, and some pupils, led an assembly to show everyone how much fun it is to learn to play the drums. Current pupils demonstrated their rhythmic skills to the delight of their audience and non-drummers were also invited to have a go. The highlight was the whole school clapping rhythmically to Queen's 'We Will Rock You' whilst Jon himself played the drums. All the children really enjoyed the assembly. Well done to all our brave performers! If your child is interested in taking up the drums, please contact the office for a booking form



PE by Mr Kirby

In the middle of The Six Nations, what better time for Y1 and Y2 to try tag rugby, many for the very first time! The children absolutely loved it and had a thoroughly productive lesson learning how to put on their tag belt and the rules of being tagged. They then played various tag games; practising grabbing the tags. They agreed, it was not as easy as they first thought! This forms part of our scheme of work for tag rugby this term as we will look to build their confidence, tagging skills and ball work before Easter



PE by Mr Kirby

Last week, we took 16 runners to compete in the competitive cross country district trials against many other local schools. All of the pupils did extremely well and we had some fantastic achievements:

Y3

Megan came 22nd

Beatrix came 25th

Y5

Ava came 8th*

Hannah came 23rd

Harriet came 26th

Eva came 32nd

Layla came 33rd

Y4

Emi came 8th

Florence came 14th

Toby came 45th

Y6

Alice came 12th

Eoghan came 7th*

Harry came 12th

Noah came 23rd

Daniel came 45th

William came 46th

Eoghan and Ava finished in the top 10 (Y5 and Y6 races only) and therefore, earned a place to represent the district in the County Finals at St Edward's this Saturday. They will compete against runners from all over Gloucestershire and we wish them all the luck and hope they enjoy the experience.



PE by Mr Kirby



Book Sale



The School Council would like to say a huge thank you for all the support given to their book sale. A total of £67.40 was raised for the Pied Piper Appeal which is fantastic!

<https://piedpiperappeal.co.uk/>

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.

Bear Pose



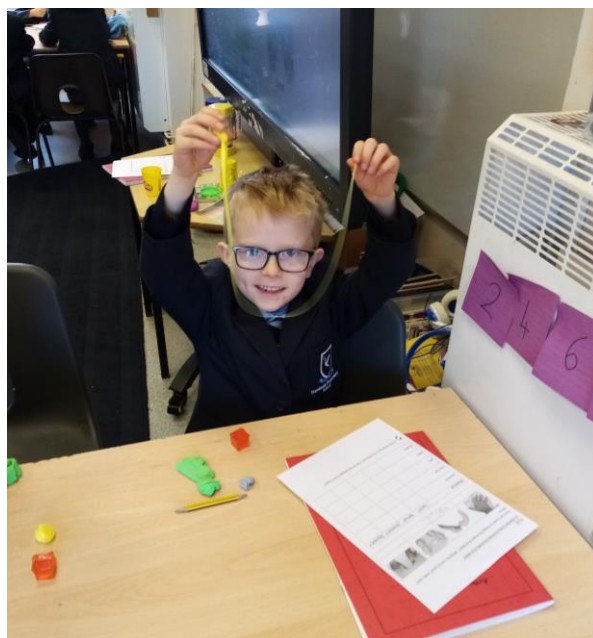
Benefits

Stretches arms, legs, sides and chest; releases tension.

- 1 Begin on your knees, then sit back on your heels.
- 2 Spread your knees comfortably apart.
- 3 Bend forward, lowering your chest to the floor.
- 4 Bring your hands in front of you, locking your fingers together.
- 5 Exhale through your mouth, warming your hands.

Year 2 Science by Mrs Stevenson

We investigated the different ways materials can be changed. We used the words twist, squash, bend and stretch to describe the different ways to change a material's shape. Year 2 had great fun investigating Playdoh, Plasticine, Blu Tak, jelly and some amazing yellow putty!



International Women's Day

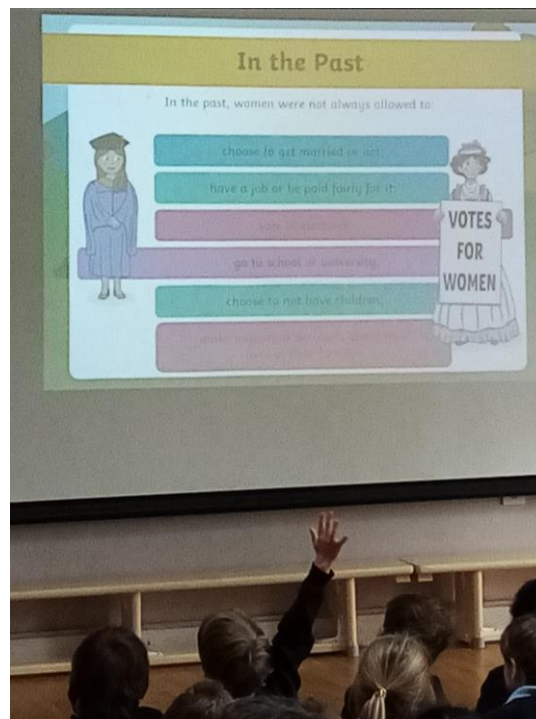


Year 6 by Mrs Trebble

Linking to International Women's Day, Year 6 explored gender inequality in their Topical Talk enrichment lesson. We discussed equality and inequality, shared ideas about how we could define the key words as well as representing the words with actions, symbols, and emotions. We considered how inequality and bias affect a person's opportunities. They listened critically and compared the perspectives of boys and girls from different countries and thought carefully about how we could break the bias.

Whole School Assembly

Mrs Jobanputra gave a fantastic, interactive assembly on International Women's Day. The children were encouraged to ask questions and look at how rights for women have changed over the years – they all agreed that there was still more work to do!



Head's Tea Party

These are always a fun occasion! Cake, sausage rolls, juice and water all served by Mrs B. Seeing the children's smiles and hearing their excitement is fantastic. Invitations have been sent for the next Tea Party which will be held on March 28th.



Message from Friends of Hopelands by Jenni Bingham

Friends of Hopelands have some exciting things planned for this year so here is something to brighten up this chilly week.

CLOTHES COLLECTION

We are working with a family run business to collect unwanted clothes for our clothing recycling box. Once the box is full, the company come and collect the items and in turn Friends of Hopelands receive money. This is a non-labour-intensive way to raise some funds for the school, there are some dos and don'ts, and we ask that you follow these. Please do NOT put any school logo items in at all. If we send item that cannot be recycled this may affect the amount of funds the school receives. Please bring in any of the acceptable items (in carrier bags is fine) and place them in the recycling box which will be outside the front of the hall. Please note that they also accept bed linen, towels, and soft toys. Thank you for your support.

WHAT WE WILL ACCEPT



WHAT WE WON'T ACCEPT



Message from Friends of Hopelands by Jenni Bingham

EASTER HOLIDAY COMPETITION

We would love to see how creative the children can get over the Easter holidays!

FoH will be running a competition to decorate a polystyrene egg. Cost for entry is £1 and the winner of each Year group will get a prize. We will call upon either Miss White or Mrs Bradburn to judge. Jenni Bingham will be in the playground at the end of school on Thursday 17th and before and after school on Friday 18th for anyone who would like to purchase an egg. To make things easy please bring the correct change. 🥚🥚🥚🥚

D.I.S.C.O

The Friends of Hopelands Disco will be back this month. There will be a couple of changes since last time. We will be spinning the tunes from 5:30 until 7pm, children can wear a silly hat or a wig (there will be a prize for the best). Finger food will be provided along with squash and water, but this is not meant to replace an evening meal, more so as fuel to keep them dancing. Numbers will be limited this time as we are still very low on FoH committee members and need to ensure we can keep the children amused and safe. The cost will be £6.50, and payment will be by bank transfer. Date is to be confirmed but is likely to be one of the last Fridays this term. Please do not send payment until we can confirm the date. To keep allocation of a dancing spot fair we will just take the first 45 payments. Any people that pay but do not get a ticket can either have a refund or go on the list for the next disco. Another email will follow.

We are hoping to plan some fun things for the summer term and hope again to have an ice cream van and strawberries and cream on Sports' Day too, maybe even a summer sizzle.

Spiritual Arts Competition 2022 by Miss White

Confucius said: Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.....



Look around you, what unexpected beauty can you see?

This term, you are ALL invited to enter your drawings, photographs or paintings (in fact, all 2D or 3D responses welcome!) to the Hopelands Spiritual Arts Competition 2022. Your creative focus should reflect the Confucius quote above, and we will be looking for images that capture a sense of 'unexpected' or surprising beauty.

Any questions to Miss White and entries to the School Office by the 25th March 2022

Have fun looking for inspiration☺ Good Luck!



ST CYR'S CHURCH STONEHOUSE

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Tell your mum or someone close to you how wonderful they are on Mothering Sunday with a small flower posie created by our team volunteers.

If you live in Stonehouse, Great Oldbury, Standish, Eastington and Haresfield and would like a flower posie for a loved one, please contact Chris Amys at chris.amys@hotmail.com by Sunday 20th March 2022.

Flower posies will be created at St Cyr's Church Stonehouse on Saturday 26th March 2022 between 10am-2pm, during which homemade refreshments will be served with our cafe. Flower posies will be distributed during our Mothering Sunday Service on Sunday 27th March 2022 at 9.30am.

