



Hopelands Preparatory School

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

Newsletter 29th January



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School Office

The school office will be manned from 8.30-3.30pm.
For anything outside of these hours please email
scompton@hopelands.org.uk



For all the latest pictures and weekly activities please follow our Facebook page
[@HopelandsPreparatorySchool](https://www.facebook.com/HopelandsPreparatorySchool)

Introducing Miss Hill

Hello everyone!

It has not been the start that I had imagined, having only had one full day teaching drama before adapting to online life. However, both the children and staff have been warmly welcoming, and I have been so impressed by the energy and creativity of the children. So far, we have been creating short scripts based on a variety of different scenes and images as well as inventing characters with elaborate costumes, storylines, and mannerisms.

Each week all year groups take part in a physical warm up to get the body moving and to find different shapes and levels. We explore new scenarios and emotions within freeze frames and the children are encouraged to use their imagination in quick improvisational exercises. I also include a fun vocal warm up each week, including tongue twisters and rhythm exercises to work on diction, articulation, and timing. For me it is so important to keep the children active and engaged and I am hoping that their drama lessons provide them with lots of invaluable skills and techniques, as well as fun and laughter! For the time being, all year groups are working on radio adverts and the different vocal techniques we can use to make them persuasive and interesting. We will begin to develop radio plays from next week as a nice little project to rehearse and hopefully share at the end of term.

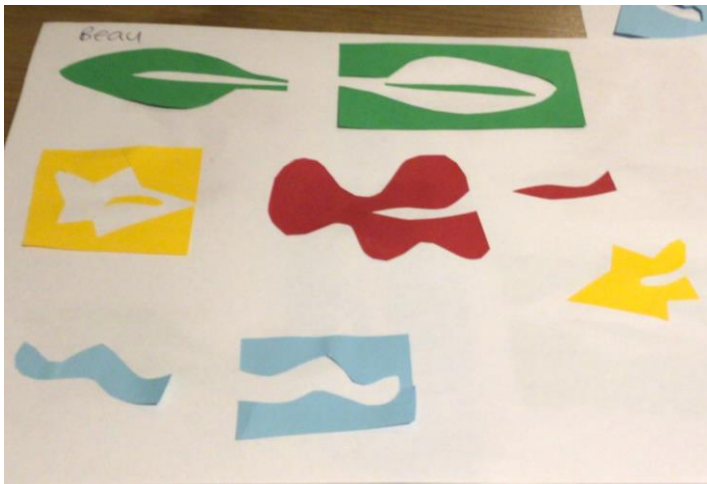
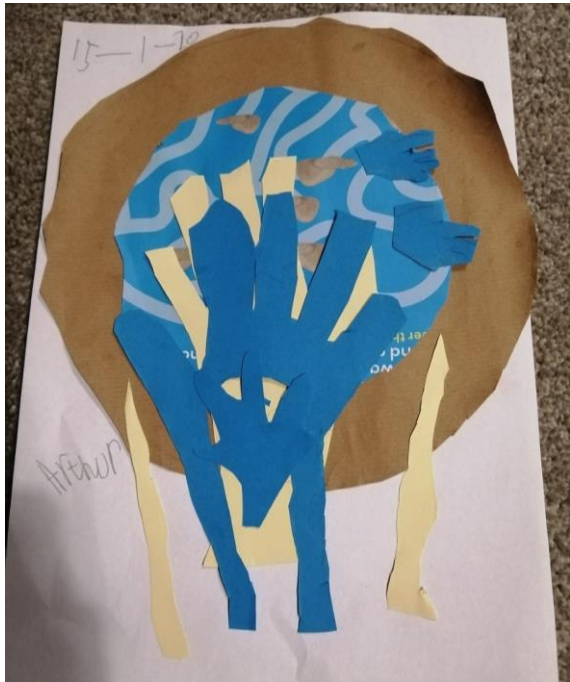
I am absolutely over the moon to take over the role as Head of Drama at Hopelands. My experience within theatre and teaching drama has been a rollercoaster ride with many wonderful opportunities to direct, choreograph and perform professionally all around the world. I trained in Musical Theatre at the Guildford School of Acting and prior to this studied Drama and Theatre at Exeter University. Professional work has been very varied from lead Shakespearean roles to children's theatre productions in New Zealand to CBBC's 'Grandpa in my Pocket' to dancing at the stunning Blackpool tower in the Latin American Championships.

However, I enjoy a slower pace to life nowadays and am happily settled in Stroud with my fiancée and our lovely rescue cat Socky, who is enjoying my online drama and yoga classes too! I take huge pleasure in teaching and inspiring young people to perform and express themselves with confidence and individuality and cannot wait to start producing school productions that have the WOW factor! No pressure or anything...



Year 1 and 2 Art by Miss White

Y1 and Y2 are exploring Matisse and being inspired by his cut-outs. Pupils are using paper found at home, 'drawing with scissors' and assembling wonderfully coloured compositions.



Art Sculpture

We are always amazed at the children's imagination and creativeness and it is lovely to see what they have been working on at home. This week Miss White was delighted with the sculpture Emi made from offcuts of wood and wire:

'It is beautifully balanced and very well thought out. The way she has delicately considered the circular shape and its position in relation to the arching wire demonstrates her natural 'eye' and instinct for composition.'

Lovely work Emi!



Pokémon Art

Rowan has been busy practicing her artistic skills by drawing her Pokémon. They are fantastic and full of character. In the words of Miss White 'Oh my word, they are AMAZING!'

Well done Rowan!



Weekly Countdown Challenge by Mrs Elmore

Every week Mrs Elmore sets the children in Year 6 a countdown challenge.... can you complete it?!

Challenge:

Use +, -, x, ÷ to make either 622 (easier) or 451 (more challenging). You may only use the given numbers once; you may find you do not need them all.



FOOTBALL CHALLENGE RESULTS by Miss Walker

Well done to all children who participated in the football challenges before Christmas.



We completed:

Keepy Ups

Crossbar Challenge

Shooting

Team Dribble Relay

Gates Passing

We finished with 339 points which placed us 13th out of 28 schools.



Reception by Miss O'Neill

Reception had fun in their DT lessons this week. Painting, sticking, cutting, and building fantastic creations!



Mindfulness by Miss Cook

As lockdown wears on we are considering how we can do more as a school to help with your child's mental health. Each week I will share a mindfulness activity in the newsletter that you can encourage your child to do at home.

Studies have shown that the benefits of mindfulness in children may include increased focus, improved academic performance and decreased levels of stress.

This week if your child is feeling overwhelmed, encourage them to try this mindfulness activity.

Ask the children to reflect on the benefits that they feel after trying this activity, could this be something that they can add to their mental health toolkit?

Stay Grounded Using Your 5 Senses

Relax Your Body, Take a Few Deep Breaths and Focus on the Following...

5 Things You Can See 

4 Things You Can Feel 

3 Things You Can Hear 

2 Things You Can Smell 

1 Thing You Can Taste 

Dance by Mrs Holloway

In dance we have been learning the Tarantella, a dance from Italy which was named after the tarantula! The bright, upbeat music has really inspired the children to dance with a lot of energy and the use of the traditional tambourine has added another dimension.

I have been super impressed at how well the children have picked up the steps, so I asked them if they could teach a willing family member some of the steps they learnt. I have been sent some videos and it is wonderful to see how much fun you were having with your children!

Thank you to all the parents who have been wonderfully supportive during the lessons, it has been great to see you join in.



Congratulations!

Absolutely delighted to be able to share some wonderful news and introduce the youngest member of the Hopelands community! As you can see Aiden and Ava are both completely smitten and they were able to share the birth as a family. Mum and dad are super proud of them as they helped set up the birthing pool, counted contractions and Ava cut the cord. A truly fantastic experience for them and a huge well done to Heidi! He is utterly gorgeous and we look forward to meeting him. His name is yet to be announced!

