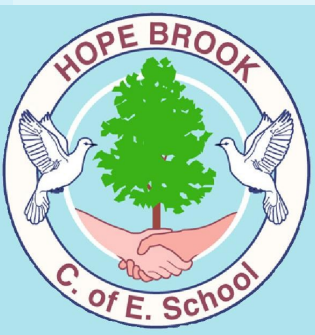




# Hope Brook News



**Week ending:  
October 24th 2025**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half of the autumn term at Hope Brook has certainly flown by! As you will read later in this newsletter, there have been many learning opportunities and special events to celebrate.



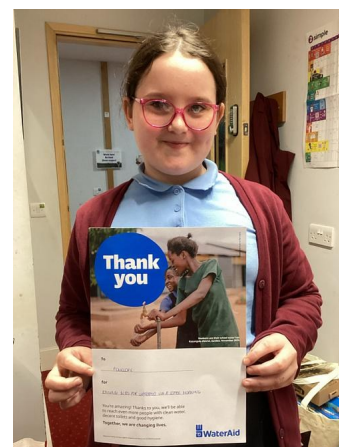
It is my privilege to often wander in and out of the classrooms and see so many special moments of learning. I also very much enjoying teaching almost every child each week and seeing their progress more closely.



Our vision is 'Growing Together with God's Love to bring Hope to The World' and I see children living this out every day, whether it is through academic learning, developing social skills or finding ways of bringing hope to others. This term, Wagtails class have started an intergenerational music project working with Gloucester Academy of Music and The Old

Rectory Care Home in Longhope. What a wonderful way of bringing hope to people within in our very own community!

During the summer holidays, Penelope took up my challenge to raise some money for Water Aid, a charity who help people across the world to access clean water and good hygiene. Penelope ran a coffee morning with lots of activities such as guess the weight of the cake and guess how many sweets in a jar and raised an amazing £185 for the charity. Well done Penelope - we are so proud of you!



I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and getting a flavour of life at Hope Brook this term!

October 2025

Miss Marks

## Diary Dates

| Date                               | Event                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 3rd November                | Back to school                                                                            |
| Tuesday 11th November              | Remembrance Service at school 10.30am. All welcome. Children to wear poppies please       |
| Wed 12 November to Fri 15 November | Year 4 Viney Hill Residential Trip                                                        |
| Tuesday 18th November              | Parents evening                                                                           |
| Thurs 20th November                | Parents evening                                                                           |
| Wednesday 19th November            | School Photographs Sibling groups with pre-school children from 8.30am                    |
| Monday 1st December                | Christmas Crafts Day                                                                      |
| Wednesday 10th December            | Nativity Dress Rehearsal (for Owls and Woodpeckers parents with younger children) 2pm—3pm |
| Thursday 11th December             | Nativity 2pm—3pm (Only Parents for Owls and Woodpeckers children)                         |
| Friday 12th December               | Experience Christmas with Rev. Lara Bloom                                                 |
| Monday 15th December               | Choir singing at Longhope Nursing / Care Homes                                            |
| Tuesday 16th December              | Christmas Disco<br>5.50—6.15pm Pre-S. R, Y1, Y2<br>6.30-7.15pm Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6             |
| Wednesday 17th December            | Christmas Dinner & Grotto                                                                 |
| Friday 19th December               | Last day of term                                                                          |

| Date                 | Event                    |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday 5th January   | INSET DAY                |
| Tuesday 6th January  | Back to school           |
| Friday 16th January  | Young Voices             |
| Friday 13th February | Last day of term         |
| Monday 23rd February | Back to school           |
| Thursday 5th March   | World Book Day           |
| Tuesday 17th March   | Parents evening          |
| Thursday 19th March  | Parents evening          |
| Friday 27th March    | Easter Service           |
| Friday 27th March    | Last day of term         |
| Monday 13th April    | Back to School           |
| Wednesday 20th May   | Sports Day               |
| Tuesday 2nd June     | PQ Eastnor Castle Trip   |
| Wednesday 10th June  | School Class Photographs |
| Friday 17th July     | Last day of school year  |
| Monday 18th July     | Inset Day                |

We hope an overview of events in the year is helpful and will try to stick to these dates as closely as possible. However, there will inevitably have to be some changes made for reasons we have not yet anticipated. Please check future newsletters for any changes or the calendar on our school website <https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/calendar/309901>

## School Dinners

We have a new dinner menu for this new term; which is available on the school website [https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/school\\_lunches\\_/311726](https://www.hopebrook.co.uk/website/school_lunches_/311726) and we hope that your children have been enjoying the new meals.

With Mrs Littlefair cooking to order over 70 meals each day, please could we ask you to help us by booking your child's lunch via ParentPay before the **8am** cut off each day.

If you believe that you may be eligible for free school meals, please visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/> to apply online.



## Safety Notice



Please could we remind parents to be good role models by using paths and not walking on the driveway or cutting across the car park at school. The bend on our driveway is a blind spot for drivers and can be particularly risky for children and adults leaving Pippins. Using the paths is the safest practice. The children have been reminded that they should walk in and out of school, staying with their parents. We would also like to remind parents that there should be no parents' cars on site between 8.30am and 4.30pm. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe.

## Lateness

Our school day starts promptly at 8.45am. Whilst we appreciate that the majority of children arrive before this time, any children who are late arriving can miss out on the first task of the day, and often unsettle the class as a result. Lateness after the registers are taken is classed by the Department for Education as unauthorised absence.

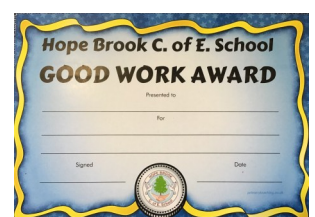
Thank you for your support in instilling a regular routine to ensure children are punctual for school.

## Good Work Awards

Each week a couple of children from each class may be given a 'Good Work Award' in our Friday celebration assembly. If your child gains five good work awards, please ask them to post them into the school letterbox (in the porch) before Wednesday so that we can award them with a Head Teacher's Award certificate and cup in the celebration assembly.

Well done to Isabelle Baker, Emily Dangerfield-Wheeler, Lara Davis, Francesca Harris and Annabelle Jones, who have achieved a Head Teacher's Award this term.

If they work really hard and are presented with the cup five times in their time at Hope Brook - they get to keep it!





## Year 5 and 6 Trip to Windsor Castle

2nd October 2025

What a privilege to witness the Changing of the Guard Ceremony! With a throng of people of all nationalities lining the town of Windsor, in the distance a faint beat of a drum could be heard. As the procession drew near, the crowds fell silent. What a spectacle to see the Guards marching in perfect synchronisation! We were very proud of the way the Hope Brook children conducted themselves; one warden commented that a number of members of the public had mentioned how well behaved the children were.

Afterwards, once we'd made our way through security and offloaded our bags, we walked to St George's Chapel. All the children showed the utmost respect by remaining silent as they made their way through this historic building. As their eyes rested on the tomb of our late Queen Elizabeth II, their quiet reverence spoke more than words. The stillness carried a poignancy the meeting of youth and legacy, which brought a tear to the eye of more than one adult.

Later, after having eaten lunch, the Kingfishers' knowledge was tested in their workshop 'The Changing Power of the Monarchy'. Some of the children took on the roles of Monarch, The Pope, a Lord and a peasant. They also explored the comparison between an Absolute Monarch and a Constitutional Monarch.

We visited Queen Mary's Dolls' House and the State Apartments, including St George's Hall where the children looked up to see all the shields belonging to the Knights of the Garter. The Knights of the Garter are members of the oldest surviving national Order of Chivalry, founded by King Edward III in 1348.

Gosh, what a fantastic day! Well done Hope Brook.



October 2025



## Wagtails Anglo-Saxon visit

Wagtails had a super day when an Anglo-Saxon visited them at school.

The children explored what daily life was like, including what they would have eaten and drank. They were able to dress up in clothing that Anglo-Saxons would have worn.

In the afternoon, they participated in a battle where they used shields and weapons. Finally, they found out about what health and medicine was like during this time.

The children found the experience both engaging and exciting. A day I'm sure many won't forget!





## Woodpeckers

Woodpeckers have enjoyed a busy and exciting few weeks of learning through a wide variety of fun ways. We have made full use of the better weather and being outside when we can. The children enjoyed reinforcing their maths learning of part-whole models by gathering autumnal items from the school's nature area.



Other learning experiences have included developing our fine motor skills by creating wool-wrapped snakes, writing dairy entries as Samuel Pepys as part of our Great Fire of London topic and improving our body awareness and control in gymnastics. A great effort by all in our first half term in Class Woodpeckers.





## Owls

Owls visited the church to find out what happens in a Christian Infant baptism ceremony. Some of the children took part in a drama recreation of the service, dressing up and marking a cross on the babies forehead in oil. We learnt that the oil had been blessed by the bishop. The scarecrow and the picture at the front of the church was of Bishop Rachel, The Bishop of Gloucester. We explored the church and discovered the font is always at the entrance to the church because it represents the idea that a person's spiritual journey into the church community begins with baptism.





## Sporting Achievements

### Cross Country - Team Event on 1st October.

To kick off the sporting calendar, a team of our Years 5 and 6 children represented Hope Brook at the Team Cross Country event at Five Acres. Despite putting in a superb effort, they were out of the medal positions on the day. Well done, Hope Brookers for demonstrating great perseverance and resilience.



### Quicksticks Hockey Tournament

on 14th October.

The school's team performed admirably at the School Games Hockey Tournament, which was held today at Newent Community School. The players demonstrated strong teamwork, discipline and determination throughout the whole competition. Their effort, sportsmanship and skill were widely praised by Mr Beard (Sports Games Organiser for the Forest of Dean). Well done, team.



## Scarecrow Trail



We were delighted to take part in the Longhope village Scarecrow Trail in October. The School Council developed some ideas for our scarecrow and then classes voted to decide the final choice (the British Value of democracy in action!). The Gruffalo won through and it wasn't long before an army of staff, children and family helpers started the construction. We were very proud of the finished scarecrow and he took pride of place by the school gate for a few days. A BBC local news crew came to film the trail and even filmed the school choir singing in the church, although time limits meant their performance was cut at the last minute in the broadcast. Nevertheless, the filming was very much enjoyed by the children!

Many visitors enjoyed finding all 47 scarecrows over the weekend and solving the quiz. It was a wonderful way to join together as a community!

October 2025



## Harvest Service

One of the highlights of our school year is the special services that we celebrate at All Saints church, Longhope and our Harvest service this year did not disappoint! The children joined together in singing the beautiful song Harvest Moon to start proceedings and Kingfisher's Class led the service, helping us to reflect on climate issues that affect the harvest in Malawi. Owls wowed us with a superb performance of The Tasty Food Song whilst Woodpeckers beautifully performed The Farmer Plants His Seeds. Wagtails then gave a very informative presentation on how harvest is celebrated across the world. Kestrels rounded off proceedings by confidently reciting the poem Autumn Bounty and then led us in prayer. Thank you to all the friends and family who came to join us for this special time. We were overwhelmed with all the food gifts and The Forest Food Bank have asked us to pass on their gratitude for your very generous donations.



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