



We work best, when we work together!



Hopedale offers a holistic, family-oriented, therapeutic approach to bringing children inner-peace and contentment, enabling them to access education, and become positive, valued members of society.



Summer (2) Newsletter 2025



We are all ready for a well-deserved rest over the summer holidays.

We finish on **Friday 18th July, 2025** and return to school on **Wednesday 3rd September, 2025.**



What have we been up to this half term?

This half term we have had topic fortnight. All classes were able to select themes and topics suited to their children's needs and interests.

In Bees, KS1 pupils focused on 'Castles and Craft' which links in with their summer term 'We Are Britain' History and Art topics. They have learnt about life and jobs in a medieval castle and made junk model castles. They also visited Stafford Castle.

In Hedgehogs pupils focused on 'Magnets and Compasses' which links in with their summer term Science and Geography topics. They visited Jodrell Bank to support their work on Space and also visited the Synagogue in Trent Vale and the Mosque in Hanley to support with their learning in RE. On top of all of that they have ticked off some of the Hopedale 50 challenges: fruit picking, visit a castle and a picnic in the park.

In Butterflies, they have focused on completing some of the Hopedale 50 activities. They had lots of fun making potions, having a picnic and visiting a farm. They have also spent time focusing on D&T creating their own tie dye pillowcases and creating their own bird boxes.

In Squirrels, the children have learnt about the 5 oceans and 7 continents of the world. They have learnt about the different layers of the ocean, the ecosystems they contain and the different types of creatures that live in the ocean. They have learnt which countries belong in each continent and the habits they contain. Alongside this, the children have explored the country that we live in and the locality of their homes.





In Robins pupils have worked on building friendships and relationships with key links to PSHE & social skills. They have completed baking, gift making, team building and created their own stories and created their very own friendship board game.

In Dragonflies, pupils have focussed on completing as many of the Hopedale 50 events as possible! They have created their own potions before going offsite to visit a farm. They also created their own music using AI and designed and created a CD case to go with it. They have also designed and flown kites as well as built their own dens!

In Ladybirds, pupils have covered sports and religion as well as home cookery. They have been looking at food hygiene and the importance of meal planning. They tried their hands at puff pastry chocolate twists, fruit skewers, fruit smoothies and cupcake baking. They finished their first week by attending Bearstone Fruit farm for some fruit picking. In Sport and Religion, they have been comparing faith and sport by designing a bold and expressive graffiti-style panel that connects a religious value with a sporting theme. As a class they have then looked at the importance of the Olympics and planned their very own Olympic activity for a class Mini Olympics event.

In Badger Cubs KS1 and KS2 pupils have continued to focus on English and Maths sessions, with a particular emphasis on phonics and shape and fractions. Pupils have also taken part in trips to a castle, Jodrell Bank, a Mosque and a Synagogue, enriching their learning through real-world experiences. They have also been working towards completing their Hopedale 50 challenges, proudly ticking off activities such as visiting a farm, fruit picking, and rolling down a hill – all contributing to a fun and memorable term.

In Badgers, KS2 pupils have continued to focus on English and Maths during their morning sessions. Specifically focussing on time, shape and decimals. In topic lessons they have focused on identifying key human and physical geographical features within the local area and wider world. This involved trips to Thor's cave and walks within the local area. During afternoon sessions pupils have explored the importance of food hygiene and safety regulations in the kitchen, they have baked some nice treats including banana bread, flapjacks and muffins. In the final week they have completed a short topic on graffiti, looking at the work of Banksy with pupils creating their own spray paint pieces of art.

In Owls & Foxes students have taken part in Independence Focus Fortnight. Taking part in a number of work experience placements in the school's bistro, supporting with takeouts and working in local charity shops and cafes. Pupils have also visited Reeseheath college and explored different courses. In addition to this, pupils have had the opportunity to develop their independent living skills; practicing shopping and cooking on a budget, learning travel skills and basic car maintenance and considered what managing a home entails. BTEC construction students have also developed their DIY skills and built a brick planter for our school garden.



Term Dates

Autumn Term

Half term 1 - Wednesday 3rd September – Friday 24th October

Half term 2 – Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Spring Term

Half term 3 - Tuesday 6th January – Friday 13th February

Half term 4 – Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Summer Term

Half term 5 – Tuesday 14th April – Friday 22nd May

Half term 6 – Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

Inset Days:

Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September

Monday 5th January

Monday 13th April

Family IEP Days:

Tuesday 6th January

Tuesday 14th April

Inter-school Competitions

This half term our students have been very busy taking part in inter-school softball and cricket tournaments. The standard of play was excellent at all events and our students demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship.

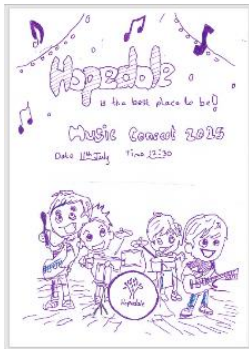
Softball

Softball is a striking and fielding game similar to baseball which involves trying to score more runs than your opposition. Students from both KS2 and KS3 had the opportunity to compete in inter-school competitions. During both tournaments the students who represented the school, demonstrated resilience and encouraged one another to try their best. In both competitions our teams performed incredibly well, making the finals and finishing in second place.

Cricket

Cricket is a striking and fielding game that our students access through our school PE curriculum. Both KS2 and KS3 students were offered the opportunity to attend the tournaments. Both events were completed in very warm conditions and our students coped incredibly well. KS2 finished in second place, and I am pleased to say our KS3 students managed to take the trophy home with them!





GHOSTBUSTERS

On Friday 11th of July our students and staff put on the most spectacular summer concert performance, led by our wonderful music teacher, Ray. The performance was the result of months of hard work by our students learning new instruments and rehearsing hard to put on a wonderful show. Every part of the show was student led, from backdrop designs, ghostbuster signs to the front cover of the program which was designed and drawn by hand by our very own Carlito. During the show we had a number of special guests, Michael Jackson and Slimer to name but a few. We were all totally blown away by every single performer and we are in awe of the talent we have at Hopedale. We would like to thank everyone who took their time to attend the event, the support means the world to our school community.





Summer Reading Challenge: Read Around the World!

This summer our students have been tasked with taking part in our 'Read around the World' challenge. This involves staff and students alike taking a journey with a book. This could be; reading books that are set in different countries, reading a book written by an author from a different country or reading a book whilst in another country. We are asking parents and carers to send photos of our pupils reading to either our Facebook account, the office or their class teacher so that these can be shared and used for display in school. Several books have been made available to students to take home to read. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing your photographs and finding out how far around the world we can get!



Message From Our Head Of School

What a busy end to the school year we have had, from the many, many trips that our pupils have taken part in to the inter school competitions and of course our fantastic summer concert! Throughout all of this, our wonderful pupils have demonstrated focus, determination and resilience but above all a love of learning and enjoyment in what they are doing, and we couldn't be prouder of them. A special mention must go to Ciaran, Josh, Kayden and Logan, our Year 11 boys who leave us this time to move on to college. We wish them all the very best as they move on and in what the future holds for them.

Finally to all of our wonderful families, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout this school year and wish you a wonderful summer break.

