



Hopedale

*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.*

## Welcome Back! Autumn (1) Newsletter 2021

### Welcome Back!

It has been a positive return to school and yet again our students have sparkled. A massive congratulations to our fabulous KS4 students from the summer who gained passes in all their GCSE qualifications and have gone on to their chosen placements. A reminder that we break up for half term on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**, and then return to school on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**.

The school calendar dates are detailed below for your information.



### What are we up to?

The Autumn Term has been fun so far with some interesting topics and learning opportunities taking place.

Busy Bees, Owls and Butterflies have stepped back in time to the Victorian age and enjoyed learning about how life was 150 years ago – from schooling to working up chimneys! They have also engaged with instruction writing from jam sandwiches to making their own Pizzeria, complete with pizzas!

Ladybirds have enjoyed working with clay, investigating bodies and learning about dental hygiene.

Our Robins have had some active sessions at the gym, from learning how to safely lift weights to cross fit sessions on the cardio equipment. They have also made their own plates on a fabulous trip to the British Ceramics Biennial at The Goods Yard in Stoke.

In upper school, the Squirrels got stuck into their science topic of 'forces' and are enjoying reading Jackyll and Hyde in English.

The Foxes and Hedgehogs have been working hard on their qualifications – with the BTEC cookery creating some mouth-watering treats including brownies, sausage rolls and candy floss! They have also done themselves proud as they have started their college courses in mechanics, computer animation, hospitality, and catering.



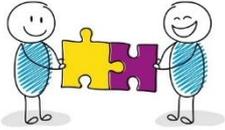
### Uniform Reminder

We need to make sure we are bringing coats and jumpers with us every day. We are fortunate enough to enjoy a wide range of activities at Hopedale, and many of these involve going off site, or being out in the open. We need to make sure we can enjoy these activities by bringing the appropriate dress to school.

## Our School Improvement Plan -

At Hopedale we strive to consistently be the best we can. As you will be aware, we care passionately about the children in our care and work hard to ensure we are doing the very best for every one of them.

Each year we reflect and look at how we can better the year before, and set ourselves some targets based on the question - how can we improve?



This year we have five key areas that we are focusing on:

1. *To develop skill boosting activities, such as memory training.*
2. *To make sure Hopedale continues to be Dyslexia friendly.*
3. *To maintain excellent standards of behaviour around school.*
4. *To understand 'local heritage' and feel part of the local community.*
5. *To continue to engage in school council ideas to improve the school and environment.*



These goals are shared and through working together, we can achieve them. We will work on them over the coming year and share updates via this Newsletter and on our Facebook page.



## Reading Across School



We are working hard to improve the focus on reading across school this term. The long-term goal being that our children develop a love of reading.

While this doesn't involve much change in what we do, it has meant we are raising the profile and talking about reading a lot more, helping our students understand the value and place it has in everyday life.

We read with the children every day, using their reading books, the Picture News student friendly newspaper, phonics work and of course through their lessons – be it a focused English session which has used texts such as Jackyll and Hyde, and Lord of the Flies, to topic work, science, and social skills.

We have also introduced a Guided Read every day in every class after lunch time, where the classes share a novel with the staff team reading aloud. This helps model reading, but also allows the children to relax, sit back and be taken into the story for a few minutes each day. There is a variety of novels being shared at the moment, some linking to topic work, and some being read for pure pleasure.

The children have responded brilliantly and are really enjoying this tweak to their day.



## Disability Awareness Day



Our students took part in a Disability Awareness Day this term and did themselves proud as they challenged themselves in a variety of activities, thinking about and understanding different disabilities and the challenges they can present.

The children gave their all as they used wheelchairs, learnt how to sign their names using sign language, tried to paint without using their hands, completed blindfolded taste testing, one armed challenges, learnt braille, held a real Paralympic medal and spent time with a working and a retired guide dog!

