



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.



Autumn (2) Newsletter 2023

What a super half term it has been!

We are all ready for a well-earned rest over the Christmas break.

We finish on **Friday 22nd December 2023** for the Christmas break and return to school on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**.

What have we been up to this term?

Each half term we will discuss a subject to keep you informed about all of the exciting activities that have been happening around school. This term's focus was; RE.

In KS2 our topic this half term was; Birthing ceremonies war and suffering. Our KS2 pupils explored different birthing ceremonies throughout the first part of the term. They also visited St Edward's Church to identify its features. Next, our pupils considered religious beliefs about war and whether religions consider it justified.

In KS3 our topic this half term was; Good and evil and how suffering effects people. Our KS3 pupils explored the presence of evil and suffering. They also considered moral evils, from wars to bullying, to natural 'evils' such as earthquakes and volcanoes erupting. To finish off the term, our pupils considered ways in which they could help others and why this is important in Christianity.



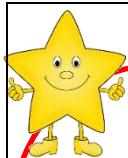
What are we working on at Hopedale this year?



Our 2023/24 School Improvement Priorities are:

1. To continue to support links with schools and colleges within the local area, including; work/training experience opportunities and being provided with a range of work-based learning. This year we also have exciting opportunities for pupils to apply for jobs around Hopedale.
2. To continue to embed a love of reading for all pupils; including engaging positively in phonics.
3. To increase the frequency of opportunities for pupils to enhance their cultural capital and understanding of democracy.
4. To continue to build links and make a positive contribution to the wider community.
5. To continue to engage in School Council ideas to improve the school and environment to enhance pupils' experience.





Inter-school Competitions

Our inter-school competitions have continued this half term with our KS2 and KS3 pupils taking part in Basketball and football.

Enrichment Days this half term

We have had lots of enrichment days this half term as well as plenty of Christmas activities around school: In November we celebrated; national recycling week, Children in Need and Road safety week.

In December, we celebrated; International Volunteer Day – Our older pupils went out, over a period of a week, to volunteer at our local Scope charity shop in Leek and our younger pupils took part in a litter pick around the local area.

National Christmas Jumper Day was a hit on the 7th December, where our pupils and staff came to school in their amazing Christmas jumpers.

Next, our pupils considered Healthy Mind Day. They completed activities such as; mindfulness, research around mental health and ideas of how your brain can relax.

The Christmas Panto was on Tuesday 12th December at the Buxton Opera House, where the pupils enjoyed the performance of 'Cinderella'. Later in the week our pupils celebrated a traditional Christmas dinner.



A message from the Headteacher:

I am very proud of all the children who had expressed an interest in our school ambassador role. All of the pupils have worked incredibly hard on their academic work this term. I hope you all enjoy the Christmas break and I will see you all in the new year.

Hannah