



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.

Newsletter (Spring 2012-2013)

Dear Parents/Carers

We're pleased to tell you that you will now receive a newsletter from Hopedale each term. It is so important that you are a part of progress at Hopedale, and the key development priorities for the year are listed below:

- We would like parents/carers to have more information about what their child is doing in school. Parents already receive weekly behaviour progress updates, some parents have chosen to use the home-school diary system, and all parents receive a termly home visit to review the progress of their child and set new targets. We aim to update the website more regularly, include your child's national curriculum levels on their Individual Education Plan, and send a curriculum map and timetable each term.
- Hopedale will introduce a 'buddying' scheme to formalise the exceptional welcome that new pupils already receive from more established children. This will help to raise the self-esteem of all.
- Pupils will raise funds for local charities and establish links with the local community through their enterprise skills and our garden project. Home-grown vegetables and herbs will be used in their cookery sessions and sold at a local market.
- We have asked the Hopedale school council to make a child-friendly version of our behaviour policy. This will help all pupils to understand what they can expect from Hopedale and what Hopedale expects from them.
- Each term, we will hold a 'health-focused' event for pupils, which might focus on issues such as the importance of exercise, healthy eating, and the dangers of smoking, alcohol and drugs.
- A key stage two outside classroom will be developed, enabling our youngest pupils to make full use of every outdoor learning opportunity.

- We hope to hear you and your child's views about Hopedale more regularly and will conduct surveys throughout the year. The results of surveys will be considered carefully and your views taken into account regarding the development of the school.

News

Hopedale is nearly full! We have recruited three exceptional, experienced new teachers. Two of those teachers are already in post, and one teacher is due to join us during the week before the Easter school holidays. All new staff are fully committed to the Hopedale ethos, strengthen the team, and receive intense direction and supervision from us.

As our key stage four pupils are currently based in a Portakabin on the school grounds and the science room is being used as a general teaching space, we have requested planning permission for a school extension. This will provide us with the two additional classrooms and toilets that we always knew we would need to accommodate our proposed number of pupils. Due to the position of the extension, building work will be taking place within its own enclosed area. Pupils will have no unsupervised access at any point.

You are invited to the first ever Hopedale concert on Friday 19th July. All children will take part in this event in a carefully matched and manageable capacity. The venue is yet to be confirmed - so look forward to a formal invitation closer to the time!

Thank you!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to pupils, parents/carers and staff who have been so patient during the first term that Hopedale has existed as school. No matter how much preparation occurs before a school opening, it will always take a little time to run as smoothly as one would like. We are getting there!

Pupil behaviour has been exemplary. Children are having fun, are happy to come to school and are learning. What a wonderful start!