



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 (Summer 2012-2013)

Dear Parents/Carers

News

- ❖ We are currently working hard towards our first ever Hopedale concert which will be held Friday 19th July. All children will take part in this event in a carefully matched and manageable capacity. The venue has now been agreed - so look forward to receiving a formal invitation soon.
- ❖ Our new teacher (Lucy Gibbs) is now settled at Hopedale and is doing a great job leading the Key Stage 2/3 specialist communication class.
- ❖ A big welcome to Dale Sheldon, Kirsty White, Sarah Ryan and Laura Dawson, who have joined the school team as teaching assistants. All bring additional skills and interests to the team, e.g. Laura is experienced in careers guidance, college course sign-posting and vocational studies, and Kirsty is an art/creativity specialist.
- ❖ The garden project is underway! Sarah McCarthy has been working very hard with pupils during their reward and break times to get a range of seeds/bulbs planted.
- ❖ Through the charity: World Vision, Hopedale is now sponsoring an 8 year old child in Africa. Pupils will be able to write and receive letters and develop an understanding of the hardships that people face in their lives.
- ❖ Our diversity theme for the summer term is disability. Throughout the curriculum, pupils have had opportunities to consider the impact that disability can have on people's lives. A disability awareness event is scheduled to take place on 24th June.

- ❖ The 'health-focus' event for the summer term will consider the importance of healthy eating and fitness. Amongst a range of activities, and only for pupils who wish to take part, we have a fitness expert coming to Hopedale to carry-out a 'boot camp' exercise session.
- ❖ Our 'paired' reading scheme is due to be launched next half term. This will involve more confident readers having a short, weekly reading session with pupils who need a little more help with their reading.
- ❖ Welcome to our chickens! Hopedale now has five Pekin Bantam chickens, which are very gentle and tame. Pupils are helping to look after the chickens, which are now starting to lay well. Almost all of the eggs that are used by 'Dave the chef' at Hopedale, now come from our own chickens.
- ❖ One of our Key Stage Four pupils (Callum) will be leaving us at the end of June. We would like to extend our congratulations to Callum for gaining a range of BTEC and Functional Skills qualifications, and to wish him the very best of success and happiness during his full-time course in agriculture at Reaseheath College next year. Well done Callum!
- ❖ We now have many positive comments in our visitors' book, which consistently centre on the idea that Hopedale feels extremely warm, caring and nurturing. This is wonderful, as it is exactly the atmosphere that we dreamed of creating.
- ❖ A huge well done to our Year 6 pupils who conducted themselves superbly during the SATs week. Taking these tests requires a great deal of concentration, hard work and commitment; we are therefore extremely proud of our pupils.

Homework

- ❖ Homework packs have recently been sent home with pupils. During the school day, pupils work extremely hard, and we don't expect them to go home and spend a long time on homework. However, in the packs there are activities focusing on key skills such as spelling and times-tables, which, if completed for a very short time each day, would really help to close any gaps in knowledge that may exist. So, we would be grateful if you could support your child each day with this.

Information for parents/carers

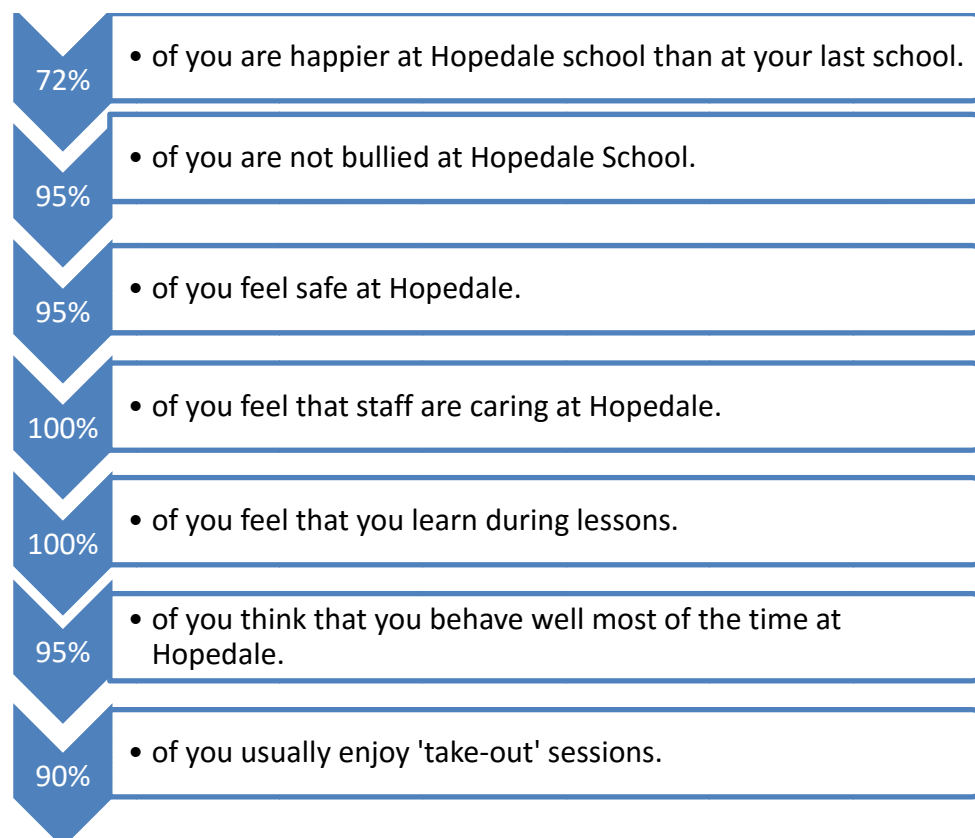
- ❖ For those that were able to take place, we hope that you found your home-visit useful at the beginning of the summer term. These visits provide an opportunity to work together to review and set targets, and help to resolve any issues or confusion that may exist.

- ❖ We hope that you received your child's timetable for the summer term and found the curriculum map interesting and informative.

Thank you!

- ❖ We are grateful to parents/carers for ensuring that their child arrives at school each day in the correct uniform. The pupils look incredibly smart. Towards the end of the summer term, we will review sizes and allocations of polo shirts and jumpers, and place an order with our suppliers accordingly.
- ❖ Many thanks to everyone who completed the survey last term. We also conducted a pupil survey. The results of both can be seen below.

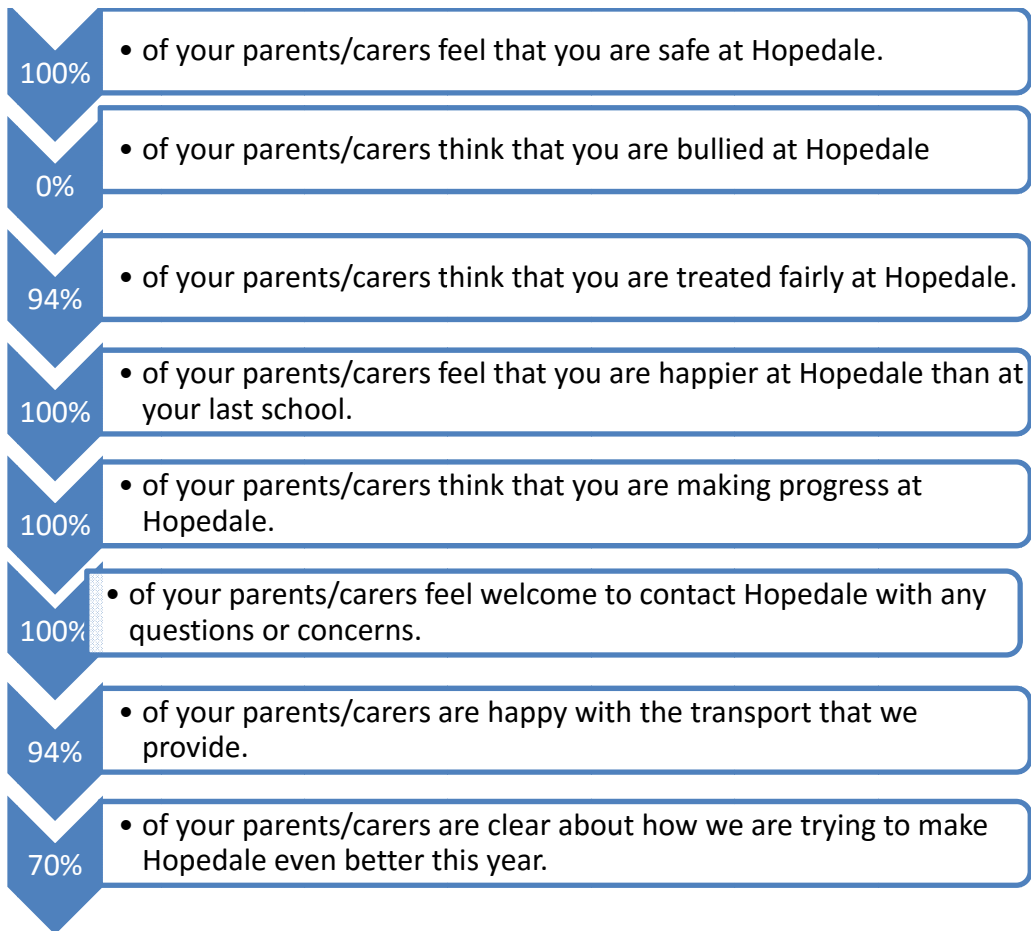
Pupils



What can we do to improve?

- We will find out why some of you prefer your old school
- We will investigate the bullying that one pupil feels is happening
- We will find out why two pupils don't enjoy their 'take-out' sessions and try to make them better.
- Your suggestions will be discussed at the school council meeting

Parents/Carers



What can we do to improve?

- We will send the newsletter out again to parents/carers who are not sure how we are trying to improve this year.
- We will add a little more information to your home-school diaries.
- We will make sure that your parents/carers know if there is going to be a change to your driver and pick-up/drop-off time.