



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 (Autumn 2013-2014)

Dear Parents/Carers

- ❖ The first ever Hopedale concert was a huge success and incredibly emotional for the pupils, audience and staff involved. I don't think there was a dry eye in the house! The children behaved beautifully and performed incredibly well. Thank you to all parent/carers/relatives who attended. We will never forget the love train around the rugby pitch! Thanks also to Dave, Alan and Viv for creating a truly fabulous multicultural buffet.
- ❖ A big welcome to Rachel Owen and John Jones who have joined the school team as Teaching Assistants. They bring many additional skills to the Hopedale team and the pupils have helped them to settle quickly.
- ❖ Residential pupils held a Summer Fayre, as part of their 'Fun in the Sun' summer school programme. This was very successful, with members of the local community attending. The children raised £89.14 for our nominated charity (World Vision), and through their own enterprise initiatives boosted their pocket money for the week. The children also enjoyed selling some of the vegetables that they have grown in the Hopedale market garden. Next summer, we aim to extend this event to include day pupils and their families.
- ❖ Our diversity theme for the summer term was disability, and culminated in a disability awareness event. Children thoroughly enjoyed a visit from a visually impaired social worker and her dog, played wheelchair basketball and took part in many focus groups throughout the day. The diversity theme for the autumn term is Japanese culture which ties in with the Key 2/3 mixed classes' topic of 'Cool Stuff and Gadgets'.

- ❖ The 'health-focus' event planned for the summer term was postponed and will now take place during the autumn term. Children 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.
- ❖ We now have full planning permission for our school extension. This is very exciting, as it will mean that key stage four pupils will have a permanent classroom (as opposed to a Portakabin), the home's recreation room will no longer need to be converted into a classroom each day, and we will have space for one more class of day pupils. Building is due to start towards the end of October. The building area will be sectioned off and pupils, of course, are supervised at all times.
- ❖ We hope that you found your home-visit useful at the beginning of the autumn 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.
- ❖ If you are happy for your child to take a multi-vitamin supplement each day in school, then please do sign the consent form and return it to the office as soon as possible.
- ❖ For your information, I have listed below some of the key development priorities for Hopedale School this year:
 - ✓ Implement new system of pupil progress data analysis in order to compare the progress of our pupils with the progress of pupils with similar needs across the country
 - ✓ Create pupil induction DVD
 - ✓ Pupils to increasingly assess their own learning and the learning of their peers
 - ✓ Further develop subject leadership
 - ✓ Plan residential school trip (for those that wish to attend)
 - ✓ Re-design the school curriculum to reflect the new national curriculum
 - ✓ Further develop the design and technology space, creating a specialist learning area
 - ✓ Further improve outdoor play facilities
- ❖ As always, thank you for your continued support, and please feel free to phone, email or visit if you wish to discuss anything with us.

Amy and Sarah