



HOPTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

News

What a fantastic term we have had. I write this now coming to the end of the school year and want to thank all of the parents for coming to our events and speaking to me about the things we are doing well and what we can do to improve. I want to thank all of the children for working so hard this year and want to thank all of the staff at school for everything they do. Hopton is an incredibly special school and one which I feel very lucky to be head of.

This term has brought fantastic events, such as our Colour Run and Sports Day. Year 5 went to the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds which was a joyful experience as well. Year 6 have had leavers events. It was so lovely to have a shared picnic with you all and watch the children enjoy all of these events this term. We are planning all the exciting things for the next academic year. We would love to have you on board with the fundraising team so please do come and speak to the office if you would like to be a part of this.

As we are at the end of the year, this often brings some changes. We say farewell to Miss Goody who is going to be an EYFS lead at a new school, along with Mrs Platt-Nolan, who will be working at Elveden Primary Academy. We also say goodbye to Rebecca who has led the Friends, but we thank Rebecca and the teachers for all the opportunities and support they have given the children at Hopton. We must not forget the Year 6 children who are leaving as well and we wish them all the best next year. Please let us know how you are getting on! You are ready for this next step and we are all so proud of you. We say a warm welcome to Miss Stevenson who will be working in Willow class next year. We have also recruited for wrap around care and plan to start this on the 1st October. In the Autumn term, we will be looking at the clubs we offer. We are in the process of confirming these details so will let you know more about these soon!

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, we will be having higher expectations with our school uniform. This means that we expect all children to be in the correct uniform, every day. We have lots of uniform donated so if you are worried about the cost of any items or cannot afford any of this, please do come and have a conversation with me or the school office. We can help provide a bundle of clothes, or can request support should anyone be finding it hard to buy shoes, wellies or other items. I have also recently been made aware of a food bank at the Church and I will attach the flyer for this at the end of the newsletter.

I wish you all a restful and relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Mrs Whiting – Head of School

Attendance

Our attendance policy is changing. Please note the very slight changes to the school day. We expect attendance to be above 95%.

- **Gates open at 8:30am as normal.**
- **The class teacher will call the register promptly at 8.35am for morning registration and close the register at 8:40am. Gates close at 8:40am.**
- **Pupils, who arrive late, but before the close of registration (between 8:40–8:45am), must report to the office where they must be signed in by their parent/carer. This will be marked as late (L).**
- **If a pupil fails to arrive before the register closes but then arrives on site (after 8:45), they will be marked as unauthorised (U). This could lead to a penalty notice.**
- **If a pupil fails to arrive before the register closes, he/she/they will be marked absent. Parent/carers will need to wait with their child at the office door to register them as the office will be unmanned from 8.45am–9am due to whole school worship where everyone will be in attendance.**

Our policy is now that you call the school office on every day that your child is absent. A voicemail will be accepted but we may call you back to speak to you in person. Parent Mail is no longer accepted as a method to communicate your absence due to safeguarding.

Term Dates

1.9.25 and 2.9.25 – School closed to children – PD days

3.9.25 – First day back for all children

23.10.25 – Last day for children

24.10.25 – School closed to children – PD day

27.10.25–31.10.25 – Half term – school closed

19.12.25 – Last day for children

20.12.25–4.1.25 – Christmas Holidays – school closed

5.1.26 – School closed to children – PD day

6.1.26 – Children back to school

16.2.26 – 20.2.25 – Half Term – school closed

27.3.26 – Last day for children

28.3.26–12.4.26 – Easter Holiday – school closed.

13.4.26 – Children back to school

25.5.26 – 29.5.26 – Half term – school closed to children

17.7.26 – Last day for children

20.7.26 – School closed to children – PD day



Uniform

We expect all children to be in school uniform every day. We will call you to bring the correct items if your child does not have these in school.

School uniform

- Hopton School crew neck sweatshirt or cardigan is preferred but a dark blue plain jumper/cardigan if not.
- Grey long or short trousers for boys or grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers (or blue/white gingham dress in summer) for girls
- Blue polo shirt, plain or with school logo, tucked in.
- Black shoes with black soles, with no brands.
- Grey/white socks or grey tights
- Book bag with logo
- Wellies to stay in school
- Waterproof coat – children will be outside at lunch, even in the rain!
- Waterproof trousers are optional but recommended

PE uniform – children can come to school in this on PE days.

- Blue t-shirt, plain or with school logo
- Navy blue PE shorts or non branded black or navy joggers.
- Black plimsolls or trainers with non marking soles

No jewellery should be worn in school. If your child has pierced ears, small studs are permitted. However, these **MUST** be removed by the child for PE; if this is not possible then tape should be provided for the child to cover the stud.

Hairstyling:

All shoulder length / long hair must be tied back using a sensible hair accessory.

Uniform can be purchased on:

- My Clothing www.myclothing.com
- School Trends www.schooltrends.co.uk

Non logo items can be purchased from any retail shop, supermarkets provide good options. The Friends of Hopton School also hold a considerable amount of second hand uniform.

Toys and fiddles

Please note that children should not be bringing in any toys, wristbands or fiddles. Fiddle toys must be agreed by a class teacher as part of a plan. If children do bring in toys, the teacher will look after them until the end of the day.

Food bank & parcels

MESSAGE FROM REV CATHY

We know that the cost of living impacts many people within our community and that for many of us there are more days left at the end of the month than money in the bank. School holidays can be an additional pressure on budgets.

All Saints church in Hopton has a stock of food and toiletries held in its kitchen at the back of the church which is available to ANYONE who needs to make use of it. Use of this is completely free and anonymous. Please spread the word and use the store if you need.

If you need support on a more regular basis, please contact Rev Cathy who can arrange for regular and confidential delivery of support parcels to you.

Revcathybladen@gmail.com

01359 250239



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



6 SUPERVISION IS KEY



For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR



When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED

For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.



9 FLOAT AND CALL 999



If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

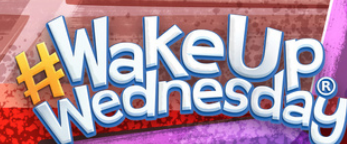
10 TEACH WATER SAFETY



Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



The National College®