

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

In Collective Worship this morning I challenged children to come up with acrostics for Hope, our Value of the Month. Trying to come up with my own acrostic I had to reflect on what hope really means to me, why is it important to me and on what is my hope founded.

At the start of this week, I was hoping that the school's broadband capacity would hold up. As I write on Friday afternoon, I am hoping for good weather this weekend so I can enjoy time outside with my family. Behind it all, I am hoping the vaccine roll out goes smoothly and we can all start to see a relaxation in the current restrictions. Such hopes are a fundamental part of our day-to-day experiences and they are important, but they come and go. Some of our hopes are realised, the broadband held, others, like the weather, don't look so good! Fingers crossed, the vaccine rollout is looking good so far.

But greater, and more important than all these things is my hope in Jesus. As a Christian my hope is founded on the person of Jesus. That hope is not passing, nor dependent upon my circumstances, because it is based on a certainty, something that has already happened and someone who is always faithful to His promises.

As the cold winter days continue with dark mornings and evenings, as we face the restrictions of lockdown and being unable to see friends and families continues to hurt, can I encourage you to think with your children about where your hope is? Whatever your hope is in, I pray that it will sustain you through these challenging times.

Thank you for your ongoing support and kind words this week, they have given the whole team, hope!

Top Doodlers!

Well done to the children in Mr Noble's class, who are this week's 'Top Doodlers'.

Mr Noble's class are the top Doodlers because 53% of the children in his class are in the green zone.

Even our youngest children now have access to Doodle, so happy doodling!

Hope

Following on from Mr Grundy's Collective Worship this morning, children in school have been reflecting on what hope means and what they hope for. It was no surprise to us that the most common response was "I hope Covid-19 goes away." It was also good to hear children thinking about why hope is important... "without it, there is nothing to look ahead to."

Congratulations Mrs Hayes!

We are delighted to report that Mrs Hayes has just been awarded her Masters in Senior Leadership. After two years of some intensive study and detailed research, Mrs Hayes can now celebrate her achievement.



During her two-year course, Mrs Hayes has led improvements across the school and met with teachers and senior educators across the country to share and debate good practice. The whole staff team has benefitted from her study as Mrs Hayes has been very willing to share what she has been learning and researching.

Mrs Hayes is also a governor and so the governing body has also benefitted from her learning.

Mrs Hayes said "Although it was hard work, it is a qualification which I am very proud of achieving and I would like to thank the staff at The Blake School for their involvement and encouragement."

News from around the school

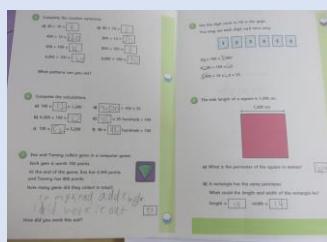
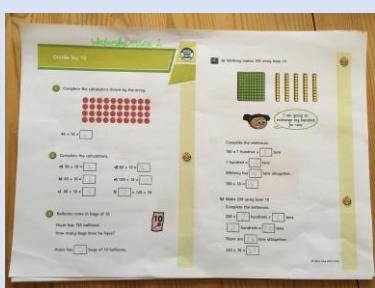
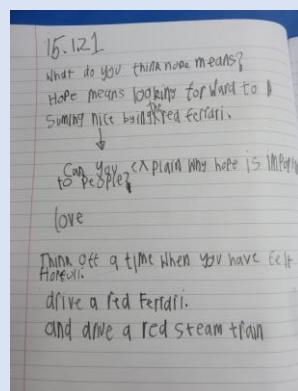
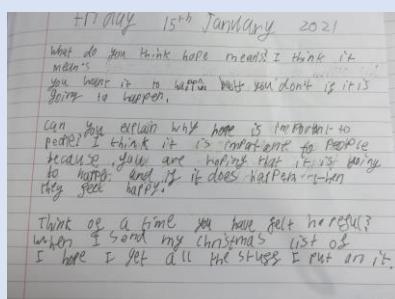
This week we asked Mr Hope to share with us what has been happening at home and in school for the children in Year 4. There is no doubt that all the children in Mr Hope's class have been busy!

Children at home have been sending in pictures of their work and also submitting it via Teams



In PHSE this week, children have been thinking about hope, what it means, why it is important and a time they have felt hopeful. We enjoyed the children's honesty, hoping for red Ferraris and the year they get everything on their Christmas list...

As part of their history topic, children in school and at home have been thinking about Roman roads and how they were made. We loved these examples made by children learning at home.



Year 4 has also been busy with Maths work, this week learning how to divide by ten.

Mr Hope really enjoyed being able to demonstrate this on screen to children at home!

Information for those in school

We would like to thank all of you who following our plea last week and the updated government guidance, reviewed your child's attendance in school.

This week, we received a letter from Anne Dellar, who is the CEO of ODST, which contained the following message for parents/carers.

"I want to reiterate our commitment to providing on-site learning for those pupils who need it most, but if we are to beat the virus, we need to work together to keep safe until things improve. So, if you are at home, even if you are working, and it is possible for you to care for your children, please do keep them at home. I am all too aware of the challenges that keeping your children at home presents for both them and you. These are very difficult days for us all, but by working together, and making sacrifices for one another, we will beat the virus much more quickly and get schools open, and staying open, for all children once again. Thank you for your support in this."

Acceptable Use Policy

Thank you for your understanding this week as staff have adjusted to teaching online, as well as in the classroom. Thank you also to those of you who have shared helpful hints and provided us with feedback – they have been much appreciated.

In the light of the move to remote learning, we have updated our Acceptable Use Policy for children; we have attached a copy to this newsletter. Please do take some time to read through this with your children and share why it is important to be safe online and how they can best do this.

We have added some information specifically about Teams, which is especially relevant for our oldest children.

Please can we ask you to remind your children that both 'chat' and 'posts' should only be used for talking about and sharing school related matters. We know the children are enjoying being able to chat to their friends and there are lots of great emojis that they can use, but it does then make it harder for other children to access important information.

Your child's continued use of Teams is considered agreement to the updated Acceptable Use Policy. Please do get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's safe use of the internet/social media, we would be happy to point you towards some useful resources.

Quiz corner

What or who is the link between these things – a unicorn, pets and parents?

How many staff regularly cycle into work?

Can you unscramble these letters to make a now familiar two-word phrase? aeeegilmnnorrt

Last week's answers –

1. Mr Verschoyle; they are his favourite food, colour and holiday destination.
2. We made 22 – let us know if you found more.
3. On most days, it's blue!

The Marriage Course

The excellent new film series of the '[Marriage Course](#)', for any couple who are married or living together, is now available and a new online course starts soon.

Why not join from the comfort of your own home and use this lockdown to give time to invest in your relationship?

Each episode explores a different topic through real experiences, expert insights, and relevant teaching, with breaks provided for couples to talk through the topics.

The next course starts on Monday 25th January and will run from 7.45 – 9.45pm, weekly for seven sessions. The course costs just £10 to join for which you will also receive guest manuals and a small goodie bag!

A couple who recently attended the course said, "*This year has been extremely hard... we came to a brick wall and didn't know how to get through it. It has totally changed things around. We are going to get our marriage blessed next and have a fresh start.*"

The course will be hosted by members of St Mary's Cogges. For more information and to sign up go to [ChurchSuite](#), or email [Judith](#).

Congratulations Mrs Rowlands

On Monday staff came into school to hear the fantastic news that over the weekend Mrs Rowlands had had her baby, Amelia.

Both mother and baby are doing well and together with Mr Rowlands are enjoying getting to know one another as a family.

We are all delighted for Mrs Rowlands and look forward to meeting Amelia when we are all allowed to get together again.

