

## Talking Heads

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

It was so wonderful to see so many happy smiling faces at the gate this week. I have spent the day visiting class and joining in with their creative and engaging activities. I have been so proud of how they have all settled back in so quickly and have got stuck into their learning. We have had lots of exciting learning across the school this week, and I have been focusing on supporting children with their attitudes towards their learning. Sometimes, new tasks and activities can be overwhelming for children, and so we are trying to instil the value of Hope into their learning, to enable them to see that they may not be able to do something....yet, but if they hope and try, and have a positive attitude they will get there in the end. To help the children understand the meaning of this value, I read them the story of *The Hope-o-potamus* in worship this week. *The Hope-o-potamus* is a rhyming story written by Greg James and Chris Smith. It can be found inside *The Book of Hopes*, and it tells the most beautiful story of a Hippo, who doesn't give up on his hopes, even though he is tired, fed-up and tempted by others to give-up. We set the challenge to our children to show hope in their daily lessons and around school.

Each class is beginning their exciting new learning journeys. We have 'What makes Britain Great?' in Squirrels, 'London's Burning' in Otters and 'Ancient Egypt' in Badgers. We have sent home a copy of this term's Learning overviews. On our website you will be able to view your child's curriculum planner [here](#). There is also this term's spelling list [here](#) and maths planning [here](#). As always, if there is any information you would like or want to find out a little bit more about your child's topic, please let us know and we will be happy to help. This term, in worship, we are focusing on the Christian value of Hope. If children have any prayers or pictures, linked to this theme, that they would like to share, they would be very welcome to do so.

As we settle into the new school year, and whilst children are getting used to new routines and new classrooms, sometimes we might need a listening ear or a bit of support. You are always very welcome to contact your child's class teacher for a chat, and you will see our teachers on class gates each morning and afternoon if you need to ask us anything.

Take care and have a lovely weekend!

 **Mrs Rowena Kaminski**  
Headteacher



### HOPE – what this value means to us at Tilstock.

- Identifying each child's hopes and dreams for the future
- Understanding what you can do to make them happen, what others need to do
- Seeing the end goal
- Resilience – try, try, and try again
- Having and looking for opportunities
- Celebrating unique abilities
- Positive attitudes from all – I can do it!
- Working together to achieve
- Bright futures for our pupils
- Our hopeful journey as a school
- Having high expectations in everything that we do
- believing that the world can be better and being prepared to do something about it – Courageous Advocacy

#### Our chosen Bible Story

- Jesus calms the storm
- Noah's Ark

#### Our Worship Songs this term

- Lord of all hopefulness
- Colours of the day
- Give me oil in my lamp

#### Secular Stories that link to this value

- Finding Nemo
- The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark (Jill Tomlinson)
- The World Made a Rainbow by Michelle Robinson
- La La La: A Story of Hope by Kate DiCamillo

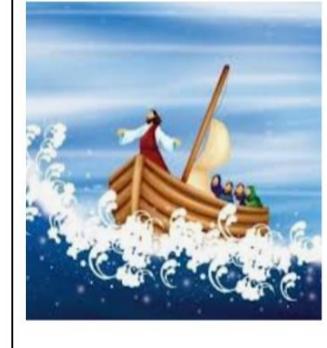
#### Our Prayer for hope

Dear God,

Thank you that you always look after us, and care for us whatever the situation we are in.

Even when we have done wrong you still love us. You give us hope because you love us.

Amen



### School uniform

Full details of our uniform policy is on our school website. We have reduced the number of branded items children are required to wear.

In order to maintain a sense of belonging and shared identity, there will be items that remain compulsory, and we have detailed below which items these are. We have also provided a list of required items, even though these are not required to contain the school logo.

#### Branded items that are required:

- School sweatshirt or cardigan

#### Non branded items that are required:

- Turquoise polo shirt (order from RAM leisure)
- Black school trousers
- Black school skirt
- Black tailored school shorts
- Blue summer dress
- Plain black PE shorts
- White t-shirt or polo shirt for PE
- Plain black unbranded jumper (not hoodie) worn for PE

In addition to the reduction in branded items, we have also worked with our uniform supplier to offer free delivery to schools once per month. Therefore, if you place an order online by 15th of each month, items will be delivered to your child's school by 30th of that month free of charge. We thank you for your input on the recent survey – if you have any further comments, please contact admin@til.mmat.co.uk.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU LABEL YOUR CHILD'S JUMPERS & CARDIGANS!**

### Reminder of 'Drop off & Pick-up' times:

The class gates will be opened by a member of staff at 8:40am for children to come through and go straight to their classrooms.

Gates will be closed promptly at 8:50am.

School finishes at 3pm, and you will be able to collect your child from the same gate.

### Student Spotlight

Well done Charlie Bannerman who came 3rd with his home grown tomatoes and Peas at the Whitchurch Flower and Vegetable show!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

[Click here](#) to view our upcoming events.

#### Events at a glance:

Nasal Flu Vaccinations (R-Y6) Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Harvest Festival for pupils: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Spooky Disco at the Village Hall: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (TBC)

PD DAYS: Thursday 2nd November, Friday 3rd November and \*Monday 6th November (no children in school on these days)

Half term holidays: Monday 23rd October-\*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Individual Pupil Photographs: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

[Click here](#) to view what our students have been up to recently.

**Happy Birthday to  
Esmee, Layla S, Rhianna &  
Chloe!**

**Who celebrate their  
birthdays this week!**

**We hope you have a lovely  
birthday this week!**



## NEWS



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