



## ....Special Edition

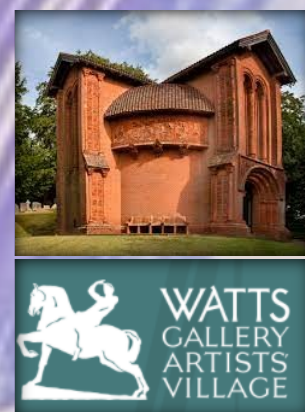
### PROJECT HOPE: St Mary's school community comes together for an artistic quest like no other!

Our 'Hope Project' was designed to mark the end of the pandemic, reflect on the things that have given us hope as we have lived through it and also to help us mark our school space with our hopes for the future.

We worked with The Watts Gallery in Surrey to plan and make our clay tiles representing 'Hope'. These were fired and can now be seen displayed around School. It has been such an exciting project and we are very proud of what we have all achieved together.

Mary and George Watts moved to Surrey over 100 years ago as they wanted somewhere beautiful to inspire their work. They built a house and an art gallery where they made and exhibited their work. Mary Watts was known for using symbols and patterns in her designs. One of Mary's ideas was to build a chapel constructed from terracotta clay. This allowed for intricate and beautiful symbols and designs both on the inside and the outside of the chapel. Building the chapel was a whole community project and Mary invited over 70 people from the local area to help her.

Inspired by Mary Watts' chapel, our 'Hope Project' has involved many people from our wider St Mary's and Tandridge Community and we are especially grateful for the opportunity to be able to share this experience with them as well as the children and adults in our School. Read on to discover how we made our mission, possible!



# The vision...

Sometimes great things happen when people bounce ideas around together. In late spring 2021 I was searching for a way for us to 'mark' our school site with a celebration of the way we had supported each other through the pandemic, and to 'mark' once and for all the fact that we were one big school.

We are a big a bold school – so our project needed to be big and bold too. I knew I wanted it to be 'outside' but I didn't know how to make it happen, and make it last.

I had a meeting with Kathryn Mills from Delight, and one of the artists she works with Hanna Maiya-Mills, and much to my consternation they suggested working with clay! Through talking together a theme emerged: HOPE

This was perfect – we could reflect on what had given us hope and sustained us through the pandemic, and express our hopes for the future. Now I was getting excited. But then it got even better. Kathryn put us in touch with the Watts Gallery in Guildford – because wouldn't you know it (well I didn't) the artist Mary Watts worked in terracotta clay, and has even built a whole chapel out of it, and one of the most famous paintings by husband George Frederick Watts was called Hope!

Working with Sarah Jarvis, from the Watts Gallery, we worked out all the materials we would need, and they employed the potter Josh, who filmed training videos for us and came to school to help us set up the 'potter studio' in the marquee.



Mrs Sarah Lewis, Headteacher at St Mary's Primary School



One of the most famous paintings by George Frederick Watts (Founder of the Watts Gallery) was called Hope!



# The launch, planning and design stage

Mrs Lewis and Sarah Jarvis from the Watts Gallery told the School about the project in a School Assembly on Zoom.



Then came the planning and design stage of the project. For many of us, this was the exciting part as we got to think about what 'Hope' really meant to us all and how we could represent this on a clay tile for everyone to see. To get us started, we had some assemblies together where we considered what symbols were and how they helped represent ideas. We had lots of discussions in our classes about what Hope was and why it was so important. We also watched videos and helpful tutorials from the Watts Gallery on tile pressing and using clay as a material for design.



I chose to use the letters in hope as my symbol as it makes me feel peaceful. **Lily Bright**

I chose a tree because to me nature is Hope and I love climbing trees. **Erica Bartlett**



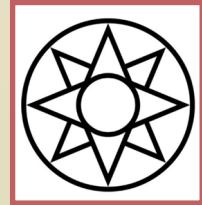
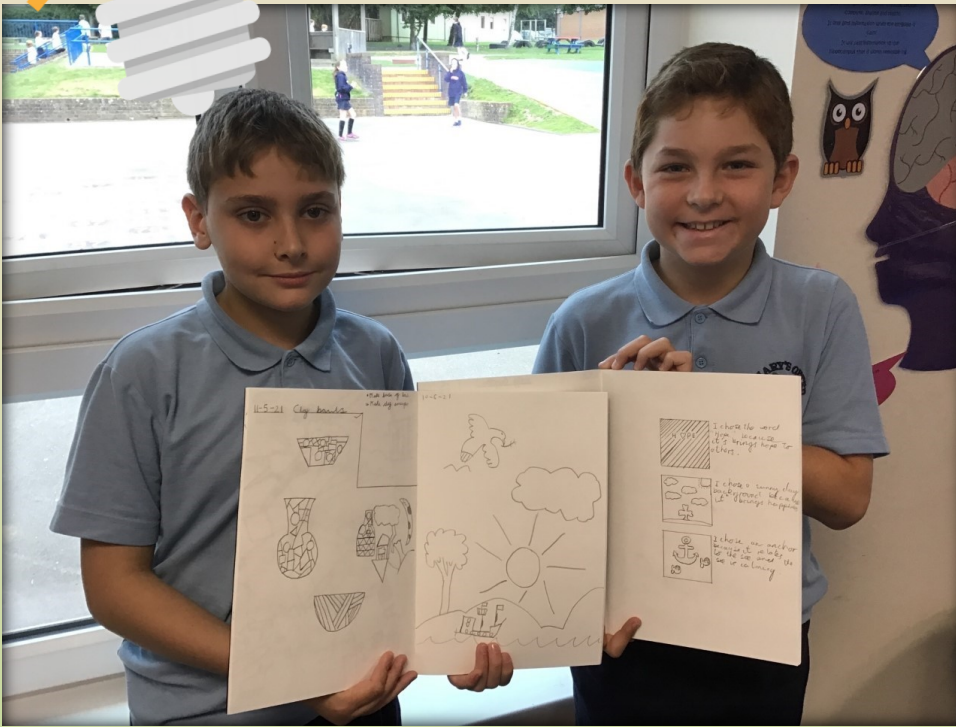
I chose a stem because it reminds me of growth and growth is about hope. **William Kirkpatrick**

I chose to draw a shamrock as it represents luck and hope. **Lexi Palmer**

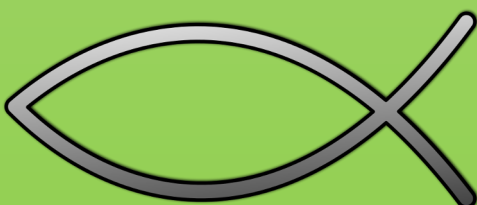
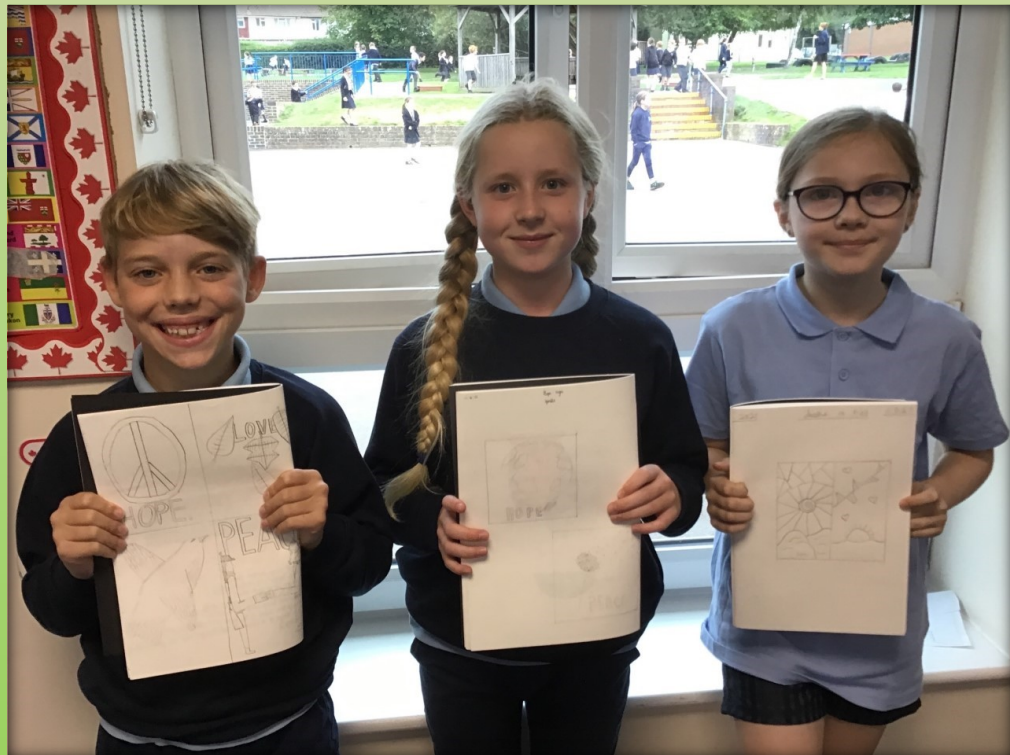
I chose a ball of power because hope is powerful and it is important for spreading hope and when something is boring, power makes it fun. **Maxey Stokes**



...some more bright ideas...we also looked at images that symbolised hope



My design symbol represented peace and love as I think that if you bring those things together then it leads to Hope. When it was time to make our clay tiles, I had a different idea so in the moment I changed my mind. I like the fact that Art allows you to be flexible and creative. Cameron Roche



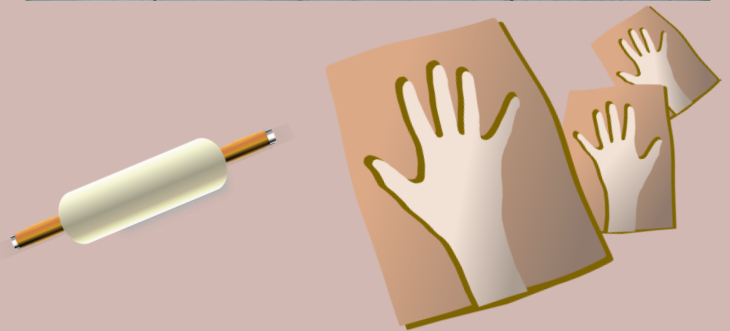
I chose to base my design around a dandelion spreading its seeds. This made me think of peace and love being spread around the world like seeds which is what I think Hope is like. People spreading peace and love to one another. Daisy Harrison

**The Prep....**

**...Josh the Potter  
trained the teachers**

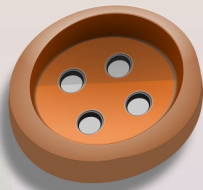


Over the course of a two week period in June, with extremes of wet and warm weather, came the exciting bit: making our tiles! We had to use all of our St Mary's Resilience, Teamwork and Innovation to battle against clay that was too wet, clay that was too hard... ....We knew we wanted our whole school to be involved and we knew we wanted to allow children to collaborate together but against the backdrop of the pandemic and with the risk of bubbles "popping" we had to be even more creative than usual. Cue the oldest of our school, Year 6; giving socially distanced demonstrations to our infant classes. At the end of the fortnight every member of our school community, adult and child had made a tile and contributed in some way to our project. Mission One: Accomplished





# Making the tiles



I really enjoyed making our clay tiles, particularly using the different materials like the feathers to decorate them. Daisy H

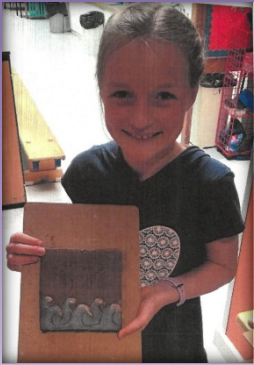
Making and moulding the tiles was quite difficult, particularly getting them out of the mould but decorating the tile with scrapers and different resources was really fun. Cameron R



# WORKS OF



# We all thought about how our tiles symbolised 'Hope'.



On my tile I drew waves. I drew waves because life is ~~to~~ full of problems and they come in and go out exactly like waves. I also wrote "there is hope" to show there is hope. I made it blue and white with clay paint, which is made from super wet blue clay or white clay. I used sticks to carve the waves and message.

My tile design includes a house, plants, rainbow and the sun. I decided to include the rainbow for the NHTS, the house to give me hope ~~of~~ for when I get back from a journey, the sun to make everyone happy.



My hope tile has stars on it because when some people look at stars it makes them feel hopeful. I put lots of stars on it because lots of people have hope. I love hope.

For my tile I chose to draw an eye. I chose this as a simile of hope because I would say an eye is a sign of something being alive or a moment from the body. So if you are a moment you can see some life in the room which makes them think of hope. I chose the colours blue and white because they are the colours of the NHTS and they have done so much for us over the past year.





# Putting it all together.

For a few days we had tiles in every part of the School!



This way to the kiln



The tiles were packed up and taken to local kilns to be hardened and glazed. A huge thank you to **Oxted School** and Kate Kirven (Finlay and Alex's Mum), **Warlingham School** and Jane Sula (Martha and Alex's Mum) and **Moorhouse School** and Catherine Taylor (Finley's Mum).

In September, once we'd got the tiles back, another of our highly skilled parents, John Timlin (Maddie and Marie's Dad), weather-proofed and hung the tiles around our School in symbolic patterns with help from Sonny Cockerill's dad Glenn (not pictured).



# A legacy of hope



We couldn't think of anyone better to bring this edition of Chit Chat to a close than our newly appointed Head Boy and Girl, James Thompson and Maisie Williams! Over to you guys:



Having a Bishop, someone who is very important, coming into our school to help us celebrate our Hope Project is so exciting. I hope this visit and the Hope tiles themselves inspire people all through the year. My personal hope for this year as Head Boy is that Hanover win Sports Day!



I am so excited to be Head Girl and I'm really hopeful that at school this year we get to do all our shows and performances and that they don't get cancelled this year!



Confidently Me    Belonging together    Challenged to contribute