



High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 16th November 2018



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

To all our families,

Good news...!

I felt very proud this week when I received a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP (Minister of State for School Standards) to inform us that High Ash is in the top 9% of all primary schools in the country with our Phonics score of 95%. It was a lovely surprise to have our efforts recognised in this way!

Other news...

Dare I say that it is only five and a half weeks to Christmas!!!! Goodness me; time flies! We are clearly very much still remaining focused on the business of normal school life and learning. However, we are starting to rehearse Nativities, carols and think about tree decorations and of course the annual Christmas Tree walk. We shall just continue to keep calm and manage learning and Christmas preparations in a balanced manner!

That said, on Sunday this week some of our choir will be performing at St Mary's Church in Little Brickhill as part of their Advent service for families. It has been lovely this term to get the children involved more with the churches and our KS1 children are also going to be decorating a tree for St Luke's Church in Stoke Hammond in the coming weeks. Last week of course, children represented our school in laying wreaths at our local churches as part of Remembrance Day.

Highlights this week...

Foundation- The children have been reading 'Owl Babies' this week and have created some wonderful owl art work using a range of mediums to create effects. I really like how they have used a fork in the paint to create a feathered effect on their designs! Well done to Miles, Jessica and Owen for trying to write their own speech bubbles (with the help of Mrs Sharman) as to what the owls might be saying to each other!

Year One and Two- They are carrying on writing instructions and I am so impressed with the quality and maturity of the sentences coming from Miss Little's Year Two group! Well done to Tom N and Ruby P for super instruction writing. A special mention to Tom for knowing what 'penultimately' meant and using it in his writing. The other groups are working really hard on getting to understand adverbs and their important role in making instructions accurate and clear. Max S had completed some excellent work on doubling in Maths, including even HTU numbers!

In response to parent feedback we have attached the Year 1 / 2 Curriculum Overviews on our website. It can be found on www.highashschool.co.uk in the tab 'About Us' and then under the 'Curriculum' section - we hope you find this useful.

Year Three and Four- The children are starting to write their information texts about Anglo-Saxons and Mrs Brakefield's group were comparing different introductions to information texts and justifying which they thought was the most effective. Michael was proud to show me his super progress in spellings and Alfie G had completed an excellent recount about the Hook Day - wow! Ethan J had researched additional information on the Anglo Saxons at home as part of his home learning. I also saw some impressive work on timelines in History from Matilda, Ollie H, Shreyan, Millie T, Alex H, Alex B and Ishan. Isaac P had described life in an Anglo Saxon village really well too. Isla and Jahvan had worked hard on fractions, as had Alex L, Tiger and Reggie. The latter pair had shown they were determined to improve as they had found the maths tricky to start with, yet showed a growth mindset and persevered to get the answer in the end!

Year Five and Six- In English, the year groups have been reading and studying newspaper reports linked to their Topic. Maple Class have been putting key Arctic explorers on a time line, as have Fleur G and Darcie S in Willow. Fleur had learnt that one explorer, Richard Weber, had explored the North Pole seven times! Oak Class have been exploring ethical and moral questions such as 'Do we have the right to explore Arctic habitats?' - thought provoking stuff! Miss Beech has had her Maths group really challenging their reasoning skills in Maths and well done to Matthew and Lucy W for sharing their work with me on this. Amalie and Evie have shown great progress in fractions this week by learning how to multiply fractions and then simplifying the answer. I saw some super artwork from Darcey D-M, Will C and James L who had been printing in the style of a native Inuit from the Arctic.

Assemblies this week...

We have started this week to think about Christmas Tree decorations for the churches and also for our school

linked to the hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. On Wednesday, Reverend Waller led a whole school assembly on 'What is the Bible?' and the Open the Book assembly has focused on the story of Moses.

Anti Bullying Week...

Next week we are supporting the annual national Anti Bullying Week campaign that occurs every November. This year the theme is '#ChooseRespect', which fits in well with our PROUD principles.

Good Companions Concert auditions...

Mrs Gray will be holding auditions for this concert at lunchtime on Monday 3rd December. The actual performance for those that are selected will be at 1:30pm on Wednesday 12th December. The choir and orchestra will be performing at this anyway; the auditions are for any musicians or vocalists who would like to do a solo or small ensemble performance. They will need to come prepared with their music and instruments for their audition.

Parents of children who are performing at this event will be able to reserve their seats, 2 per family, via our website which will be live next week. You will receive an email or text message prompting you to reserve your seats as soon as the booking form has been made live on our website. Thank you.

Football news....

Well done to our football team who continue with their top form, securing another win against Brookmead School on Thursday. It was a great team effort from Mason, Tristan, Cameron, Matthew, Aaron, Jason, Connor, Caleb, Charlie and George, with goals coming from Tristan and Matthew. I was also proud to hear of their sportsmanship and camaraderie - super effort!

WRAP adhoc bookings....

Christmas Shopping - let us help you!

Do you need more hours in the day to finish your Christmas Shopping? Why not book a place at Wraparound? We have spaces available for both mornings and afternoons on most days between now and Christmas. Wraparound is open until 6pm so it could give you plenty of time to shop! Please see the attached flyer for booking details.

Christmas Shopping - you can help us!

You can now donate to High Ash whilst you shop. We've registered with [Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) - a great website where you can help us raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping with over 3,300 big name retailers like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.

Just visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/highashceschool/> and search for the retailer you want to use. High Ash will then receive a small donation every time you shop. Some of the retailers are giving bigger donations at the moment too - John Lewis, for example, is giving a donation of 3% between now and Sunday 18th November so definitely worth it if you have Christmas presents to order!

Christmas Cards...

Thank you to all those parents who ordered Christmas Cards - we raised £265.50 for the School! Christmas cards will be distributed on Monday and will go home with the children at the end of the day.

Choir @ Young Voices, Birmingham - 22nd January 2019...

Thank you to all those that have consented and contributed to the cost of transporting your child to and from this event. There is still time to do this via your parentpay account. Thank you also to those parents that have paid for their T-Shirt and Audience Ticket orders via parentpay. If you have not already done so, please remember to return your completed order forms to the school office on Monday 19th November to ensure we have your order correct. **The T-Shirt and Ticket order payment items on parentpay are now closed, we cannot accept any further orders.**

Foundation/KS1 Nativities...

Thank you to those parents that have already paid £10.00 towards the cost of receiving the link and protected password to access the filmed nativities which will be emailed to you after the event. Please be aware that the cost is £10.00 per performance. Therefore, if you have a child performing in the Foundation Nativity and another child performing in the KS1 Nativity, you will be required to pay £10.00 per performance.

Please remember to reserve your seats via our website by Monday 3rd December. Select the 'Parent' tab followed by 'Booking In-School Events' then either the Foundation or KS1 Nativity or both to reserve your seats which are limited to 3 seats per family. Thank you.

Spring M-Sports Clubs - Years 4 - 6...

There are still spaces available for this club next term. The club will run from the beginning of term to the end of term and costs £45.00 per child. If your child is interested in joining this club, please email office@highash.bucks.sch.uk by Friday 23rd November, so that the office can add your child to the payment item on parentpay to enable you to pay securing your child a place within this club. Thank you.

Parent Forum...

As you know, our next Parent Forum with Mrs Boyce is due to take place on Thursday 29th November at 9:00am and repeated at 6:00pm. **Please remember to register your attendance via our website booking form by Tuesday 27th November.** Please select the 'Parent' tab followed by 'Booking In-School Events' then the 'Parent Forum' tab and complete the form. Thank you.

Poppy Appeal...

Thank you to all the parents that contributed by purchasing a poppy, pin or wristband and helped raise an amazing sum of £110.79 towards this cause. As a community, Great Brickhill Village raised a fantastic sum of £1849.00. Thank you for your support.

Diary Dates coming up....

Monday 19th November - Red Group - Foundation Phonics Parents Workshop @ 9:00am
Tuesday 20th November - Blue Group - Foundation Phonics Parents Workshop @ 9:00am
Thursday 22nd November - Football Game v St. Michaels School (Away) @ 3:15pm
Friday 23rd November - Star Assembly @ 2:45pm - doors open at 2.30pm (All welcome!)
Thursday 29th November - Parent Forum @ 9:00am and repeated again at 6:00pm
Friday 30th November - 9am - Christmas Tree Walk (Parent volunteers welcome!)
Friday 30th November - 2.45pm - Star Assembly - doors open at 2.30pm (All welcome!)

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

Sara J Boyce

Sara Boyce
Headteacher

headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk