



To all our families,

Another week flies by and lots of super learning has been taking place as usual this week!

**Highlights....**

**Foundation-** Thank you to all the parents who attended the Phonics Workshops this week in Foundation class and we hope you are feeling more confident with how to support your child at home. The team have prepared a list of resources that you may wish to purchase at home. This week, they have been learning the sounds 'x' and also the double sounds of 'ss', 'ck' and 'ff'. They have been working hard to apply these in their writing. The class have also been learning about 'Light and Dark' and have loved making light bulbs light up in a circuit, shining torches in a dark room and learning about day and nocturnal animals. Well done to everyone in Foundation as I am so proud of you all and they have all made such progress in their time with us. I watched them do their first Nativity rehearsal and they were all fab!

**Year One and Two-** The children have created some wonderful art work using natural materials this week. I loved seeing the designs from Cedar Class- well done to Isobel, Max, Angel and Ben for their sketches! In Maths, I have been so impressed with the children's progress with multiplication and linking doubling to the two times table. Ralph, Beau, Tom and Nicole could all tell me how you know a number is in the ten x table and Jenson, Dulcie and Angelina had all worked hard on their times tables. Well done everyone!

**Year Three and Four-** Last week, Year Three and Four were set the challenge for homework of writing a non-chronological report on a subject they were interested in and wow have they impressed us with their writing! I have seen lots of good work and creative ideas on subjects ranging from horses, unicorns, Super Mario and Cyclops! Special mention to Harrison, Alex H, Jack B, Ava, Olivia L, Alex B, Skye C, Molly S, Herbert and Jamie for their work on this. Lily R came to see me with her independent work from Guided Reading having got a Gold Star. Last, yet by no means least, Lucy had really made progress in Maths this week and Lorelie has done some super work on timetables - keep up the hard work!

**Year Five and Six-** This week, the children have started to write sentences in their French lessons, using new vocabulary they have learnt. I was very impressed with the quality of understanding shown by Tommy, Darcey D-M, James L, Isaac, Will and Ollie B who had written and then could translate their French work. Très bien! Kiera and Phoebe had shown their ability to improve language within a newspaper report on the Titanic and Maple Class have been using hot seating in their Guided Reading to 'interview' passengers on the Titanic to infer about first hand witness experiences. Ellie, James and Rohan A have worked super hard on their word choices in their newspaper reports and used some new vocabulary really well. Zoe G had written a fantastic report on the Titanic too, using lots of new and technical vocabulary. Finally, as the photo below shows we have had some super printing from Year Five/Six in Art- well done to Daniel, Elizabeth and Asha for their super designs!



**Year 6 Christmas Cracked...**

Our Year 6 children will be joining the Bridgebuilder Trust Team for a fast-moving and interactive presentation entitled 'Christmas Cracked' on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you to those parents that have completed and returned their form giving consent for their child to take part in this event. **To those parents that have not yet consented, please do so by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. You can obtain a paper copy of the letter from the school office or you can download it from our website where it has been uploaded to the calendar attached to the date the event is taking place.

**Nativities...**

**Foundation Nativity - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December @ 2.00pm**

**KS1 Nativity 'Lights, Camel, Action!' - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December @ 5.30pm, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 2.00pm and 5.30pm (Doors open on both nights at 5.00pm).** Please bring your child into school at 5.00pm so they can change in to their costume in their classroom, then parents with seats reserved for the performance may take a

seat in the hall.

Foundation will have a dress rehearsal on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December in the morning in front of the whole school and Little Ashes Pre-school children and staff. KS1 children will have their dress rehearsal on the same day in the afternoon also in front of the whole school.

**Please remember you are NOT permitted to record the performances as both afternoon productions are being professionally filmed. NO photographs are permitted during the performances.** However, parents are welcome to take photographs after the performance of their own children for personal use only, not to be uploaded to any social media sites.

If you wish to purchase the link to your child's filmed performance providing you with a protected password to access the file for downloading from a smart phone, tablet or computer, **please remember to pay £10.00 per performance online via your parentpay account by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.**

Thank you to those parents that have reserved their seats online, if you have not already done so, please do **reserve your seats via our school website by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.** Please select the 'Parents' tab on the website followed by 'Booking In-School Events' then click on the Nativity you wish to reserve seats for, complete and submit your booking form.

#### *Football.....*

Well done to our football team for showing great resilience and team work in their cup match this week. It can't be a win every time, yet I remain really proud of their sportsmanship, determination and growth mindset. That is as important as any result.

#### *Choir at Church....*

Thank you to the members of the choir who performed at the family service at St Mary's Little Brickhill on Sunday. They sang a beautiful song about Advent which we are now learning as a school. Some of our choir will also be performing at the **Stoke Hammond Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2.45pm.** Thank you to those parents that have set aside their valuable time to bring their child to perform at this event, it is very much appreciated.

#### *Parent Forum.....*

Just a reminder that next **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November is the Parent Forum**, so I do hope you can join me for a coffee and a biscuit as I update you on current school priorities and explain what is coming up in the Spring Term and how you as parents can input on this. It is also a chance for you to ask questions/express opinions and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. I keep saying it is there for you to get time to hear directly from the horse's mouth (yes, me being the horse!) plans and updates about our school.....and a free biscuit too! **Please sign up via our website by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.** Log on to our school website, select the 'Parents' tab followed by 'Booking In-School Events' and click on Parent Forum, complete and submit your booking form. Thank you.

#### *Christmas Tree Walk.....*

We are looking forward to our Annual **Christmas Tree walk on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November.** We are walking to Alders Farm Fisheries. Thank you to all the parents that have volunteered so far to walk the children to and from the Fisheries. Where possible parent volunteers may be able to walk with their children. We ask that parent volunteers please wait on the playground in the morning, the children will be registered and will then line up on the playground ready to walk with their class. Children must wear their school uniform with wellies and bring their school shoes in a separate bag to change into. Please ensure your child is wearing a warm coat. Children **do not** need a snack or water bottle to take with them on the walk, all children will be given a biscuit on arrival. Tea and coffee will be available in The Ash Tree for parent volunteers on our return to school. If you would like to volunteer to walk with us, there is still time, **please complete the booking form online via our website by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November.** Please log on to [www.highashschool.co.uk](http://www.highashschool.co.uk), select the 'Parent' tab followed by 'Booking In-School Events' then click on the Christmas Tree Walk complete and submit your form. Thank you.

#### *Good Companions Concert....*

Our choir and orchestra children will be **performing for the Good Companions on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December @ 1.30pm.** Auditions for solo/ensemble performances are taking place at lunchtime on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.** Any children auditioning must remember to bring in their instrument and music to school with them on this day. Parents of successful children will be informed and invited to reserve seats if they have not already done so. **Seats are limited to 2 per family, please book online via our website by 10.00am Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December.** Please select the 'Parent' tab followed by 'Booking In-School Events' then select Good Companions Concert, complete and submit your booking form. Thank you.

#### *Assemblies...*

This week we have focused on the theme of '#chooserespect' from the national Anti Bullying campaign and focused the children's minds on how we can show respect in school. This of course fits in well with our PROUD principle of respect.

As we approach Christmas, our assemblies are focusing on the meaning of Advent and the advent candles, on Christingle and of course the Nativity story. This will also be picked up on with our church led 'Open the Book' assemblies which happen every Thursday.

#### [HASA Christmas Jumper Day...](#)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December is our Christmas Jumper Day. Children are able to wear a Christmas jumper with their usual school uniform. Please no hair accessories, deely boppers or hats to be worn. HASA just ask for a small donation of £1.00 if your child wishes to wear a Christmas jumper.

#### [Pupil Photographs...](#)

All children that were present in school during the individual and in school sibling photographs session that took place on the morning of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November, will have by now received their proof photographs and have taken them home. You can order online or alternatively return your proof photograph within the envelope provided enclosing your payment either by cash (exact amount) or by cheque made payable to 'DSP Photography Ltd'. Please note the deadline for order your photographs is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. If you have any questions or queries relating to your child's proof photograph, please contact DSP Photographers direct on 01242 691910.

#### [Ash Tree Restaurant...](#)

Please see attached next week's menu and don't forget to book your child's hot school meal via Parentpay. You can book up to 9am the same day.

#### [Y5/6 Parent Talk re Night Shelter...](#)

We are very lucky to have a parent volunteer, Mrs Mary Green come in to school to talk to our Years 5 and 6 children about her experience working with the Winter Night Shelter. Mrs Green has been volunteering at the Winter Night Shelter for 2 seasons. She will be covering why we have homelessness in our towns and cities and how we help people on the streets (not just with emergency food and beds) but to move on and rebuild their lives. Mrs Green will tell her story on how she got involved with the shelter, how she heard about WNS, why she became involved and what she does as a volunteer. She will also be covering what some of the other roles are and how it can all be achieved with an army of ordinary people. We look forward to her visit which will be on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**.

#### [Spring Clubs...](#)

Badminton Club run by Clubs for Schools on Fridays next term which will run from the beginning to the end of next term has not yet had enough interest. If we do not receive enough interest in this club, we will have to cancel it and arrange for those parents that have booked and paid to be refunded. If your child is interested in participating in this club, please book with Clubs for Schools direct. You can access the booking flyer via our website within the 'Clubs/Wrap' tab.

Years 4-6 Multi-Sports Club run by Gareth Anderson on Tuesday's next term still have spaces available.

Years 1-3 Multi-Sports Club also run by Gareth Anderson on Thursdays next term has 2 spaces available.

If your child is interested in taking part in either of these clubs, please contact the school office via email so we can add your child to the payment item enabling you to pay for your child to attend either of these clubs.

We hope to continue to run the Cookery clubs on Tuesday's and Thursday's next term run by SmartRaspberry provided we have enough interest. Again if your child is interested and you have not already booked and paid for your child to attend, please book direct with SmartRaspberry. You can access the booking flyers via our website selecting the 'Wrap/Club' section.

#### [Autumn Clubs finishing...](#)

Cookery club run by SmartRaspberry on Tuesday finishes next week, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November. All other clubs will finish the following week ending Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Please ensure you have emailed the office prior to clubs finishing with your child's home arrangements if on the bus when all clubs for this term have finished. Thank you.

#### [Final Christmas Count Down...](#)

You will receive a Christmas count down of events in our weekly newsletter next week for December. You will also be able to view these December dates on our website on the news alert section as a quick reminder.

**Don't forget you can support High Ash whilst shopping online**



We've registered with [Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to help us raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping. There are 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. See attached flyer for more details.

Some of the retailers are giving bigger donations too for 'Give Back Friday' so definitely worth having a look if you have Christmas presents to order! Thank you those parents who have already used this site.

### *Good news...*

Well done to the kitchen team who received (again!) a 5 star rating from Environmental Health and is recognition of their commitment to the highest hygiene standards.

### *Reminder of dates coming up for the rest of this term...*

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Forum at 9am and repeated at 6pm

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas Tree Walk leaving at approx. 9.15am

Star Assembly at 2.45pm - All welcome! (Doors open at 2.30pm)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Solo/Ensemble Auditioning for the Good Companions Concert at lunch time

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Maple Class Assembly followed by time in the classroom at 2.45pm - All welcome! (Doors open at 2.30pm)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Foundation and KS1 Nativities Dress Rehearsals in front of the whole school

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Year 6 Christmas Cracked @ 12.30-2.30pm

Foundation Nativity Production @ 2pm

KS1 Nativity Production, 'Lights, Camel, Action!' @ 5.30pm (Doors open at 5pm)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Good Companions Concert @ 1.30pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December - KS1 Nativity Production at 2pm then repeated at 5.30pm (Doors open at 5pm)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December - HASA Christmas Jumper Day for £1.00 donation

Star Assembly at 2.45pm - All welcome! (Doors open at 2.30pm)

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Foundation and KS1 Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church @ 1.30pm. Parents welcome!

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December - KS2 Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church @ 1.30pm. Parents welcome!

Foundation/KS1 Magician Party

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Break up for Christmas Holidays

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

*Sara J Boyce*

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Headteacher

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