



High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 30th November 2018



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

To all our families,

What a great way to start Christmas advent with our annual Christmas Tree Walk this morning! It was wonderful and quite moving to see and listen to the children singing carols and get excited about the start of Christmas! Thank you so much to Alders Farm Fishery for providing the setting and the tree and to the kitchen team for the biscuits. It is also so special to see the whole school community of children, staff and parents coming together to celebrate this time of year.

In our assemblies next week, we will be learning about Advent, lighting the advent candles and understanding Christingle. The Open The Book Assembly will focus on the story of 'The First Christmas'.

Christmas Countdown- important reminders...

Read on further in this newsletter for our Christmas countdown reminder for parents which we hope you find a useful aide memoire at this busy time of year! Highlights of the week will return next week as just not enough space this week to fit it all in to a newsletter!

Good work...

I am so proud of all the hard work of the children at our school and once again this week I have enjoyed seeing lots of good work.

Well done to Evie and Nicole for working hard on learning their times tables and also to Alby for his super writing in English- what super stars!

Special mention goes to Jess, Jake, Oscar, Caylee and Ava for their excellent written work and to Nelka, Kaitlyn, Alfie G and Jack B for their English work on complex sentences. Sakhile, Alex and Jamie had produced a really high standard of home learning too- wow!

Governor News...

After many years as Chair of Governors, Mr Mike Whitelegge has stepped down from this role due to increased work commitments; yet will remain a Governor at our school. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank him for his hard work and support of our school in this role and I am delighted he is still part of the Governor team. Mrs Victoria Hargreaves has been elected by Governors as our new Chair and I know she has the passion and drive to support myself in taking the school forward, providing the appropriate challenge expected of the role. In other changes, Mr Julian Mitchell is now Vice-Chair of Governors and replaces Mrs Vicky Howley, who has also chosen to step down for work reasons. She too though will remain on the Governing Body as she is also a valued member.

Diary reminders/Christmas Countdown...

Day and time	Event	Notes
Monday 3 rd December	All Nativity costumes due in school for Foundation and KS1 by today please and in a named carrier bag.	
Monday 10 th December	Foundation Nativity Dress Rehearsal to Little Ashes, KS1 and older siblings in KS2 KS1 Dress Rehearsal to whole school	NB- this is for children only; not a parent event, yet just to let you know!
Monday 10 th December	Christmas Post Box for children to post cards will be in the office area from this day until Friday 14 th December.	Please can you ensure you put the child's first name and class name on the envelope to help our Year 6 delivery helpers.
Tuesday 11 th December 2pm	Foundation Nativity Production	Thank you for booking your tickets in advance. Note that children will still be collected at the normal finish time of 3:15pm. <i>This performance is being professionally recorded.</i>

		Doors open at 1:45pm HASA will be serving refreshments and drawing a raffle to win a luxury hamper!
Tuesday 11 th December 12.30-2.30pm	Year Six to Christmas Cracked at Water Eaton Church led by Bridgebuilder.	Children will be back in time for the end of the school day.
Tuesday 11 th December 5:30pm	Key Stage One Nativity Production	Please drop off children at 5pm. Doors also open to the audience at 5pm. If you are not at this production- pick up is at 6:15pm. HASA will be serving refreshments and drawing a raffle to win a luxury hamper!
Wednesday 12 th December 1:30pm	Good Companions Concert	Each class are performing a song or poem and there are performances by orchestra, choir and individual/ensemble pieces. Doors open at 1:15pm, please reserve your seats online via our website by Friday 7 th December.
Thursday 13 th December 2pm	Key Stage One Nativity Production	Thank you for booking your tickets in advance. Note that children will still be collected at the normal finish time of 3:15pm. <i>This performance is being professionally recorded.</i> Doors open at 1:45pm HASA will be serving refreshments and drawing a raffle to win a luxury hamper!
Thursday 13 th December 5:30pm	Key Stage One Nativity Production	Please drop off children at 5pm. Doors also open to the audience at 5pm. If you are not at this production- pick up is at 6:15pm. HASA will be serving refreshments and drawing a raffle to win a luxury hamper!
Friday 14 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and The Ash Tree Christmas Lunch	Children to come to school in usual uniform with Christmas jumper on and £1 donation. If you have not yet booked your Christmas Lunch, you can book up to 9am on the day.
Friday 14 th December 2:45pm	Final Star Assembly of the term	Doors open at 2:30pm and 100% attendance also awarded Birthdays that take place up to 31.12.18 will be included in this assembly too.
Monday 17 th December	Send your child in with an orange in the morning please for our Christingle decorations! Thank you.	
Monday 17 th December 1:30pm	Foundation and KS1 Christingle Church Service at St Mary's Great Brickhill	We will be walking to church from school at 1:30pm so the service will start at approx 1:45pm and be about 30 minutes. We will then walk back to school and go home at the normal time. As last year, we have glow sticks for church as opposed to candles. Each child will have a candle to go home with to light at home. We do require parent volunteer to help walk the children to and from the church. If you are able to

		help, please complete the online booking form via our website, selecting the 'Parent' tab followed by 'Booking In-School Events' and then select the KS1 Christingle Tab by Thursday 13 th December. This online booking form will be live on Monday 3 rd December.
Monday 17 th December pm	KS2 Christmas Activities	
Monday 17 th December 3:30pm-5.15pm	HASA Festive Film Night	Two Festive Films will be shown - one for F/KS1 and one for KS2. Simply book and pay for the Festive Film Night on ParentPay - it costs just £4 per child. Each child will be served a muffin and a cup of hot chocolate during the film.
Tuesday 18 th December 1:30pm	KS2 Christingle Church Service at St Mary's Great Brickhill	We will be walking to church from school at 1:30pm so the service will start at approx 1:45pm and be about 30 minutes. We will then walk back to school and go home at the normal time. As last year, we have glow sticks for church as opposed to candles. Each child will have a candle to go home with to light at home. Parent volunteers needed please. Again please just complete the online booking form if you are able to help walk the children to and from the church. Select 'Parent' tab followed by 'Booking In-School Events' then select the KS2 Christingle tab. Book by Thursday 13th December. The online booking form will be available on Monday 3rd December. Thank you.
Tuesday 18 th December 1:30pm	Foundation and KS1 Christmas Magic Show	We have organised for 'Magic Carl' to perform a magic show to the children- this is funded by school. Children to wear their normal uniform as no party clothes needed.
Wednesday 19 th December	School breaks up for Christmas Holiday HASA Donut Sale	School finishes at normal time- please remember no WRAP after school on the last day of term. Donuts will be sold in the playground after school for £1.00 per donut.
Wednesday 2 nd January	Staff INSET- School closed	
Thursday 3 rd January	Children back to school	
Friday 4 th January 2:45pm	Star Assembly	This will cover birthdays from 1.1.19 to 4.1.19

Community Events...

Great Brickhill

Saturday 1st December, Advent Coffee Morning, 10am - 1pm at St. Mary's Church, Great Brickhill

There will be art, pottery and craft stalls for you to buy your Christmas presents; a toy stall and craft activities for children run in partnership with High Ash; a tombola; and the last chance to buy tickets for the Christmas Cake raffle. Plus tea, coffee and festive mince pies.

Sunday 23rd December, Village Nativity, Great Brickhill from 11am

St Mary's are holding their Village Nativity in the beer garden of the Old Red Lion on Sunday 23rd December. This is a short, informal service with children telling the Christmas story and dressing up as characters from the nativity. St Mary's have invited children from High Ash to take part. If any children would like to be involved or you'd like to know more, please email Mrs Northen in the school office highash@bucksgfl.org.uk Please note that **this is not a school event and parents/carers will need to attend with their children.**

Stoke Hammond

Saturday 1st December, Christmas Fayre, 2-4pm at Stoke Hammond Community Centre

The usual attractions will be there including; Christmas hamper raffle; Poinsettia stall; Church bookshop (selling cards and Advent goods); Christmas tombola; charity Christmas cards; cake stall; toy stall; Usborne books; candle stall; mulled wine; refreshments; photographer and a wide range of other stalls. This year you can **visit Santa** and his elves in his special grotto!

Saturday 8th December, Christmas Tree Festival, 10am-5pm and Sunday 9th December, 10am-3pm at St. Luke's Church

Back by popular demand, this year's theme is "All things bright and beautiful". Trees are sponsored and decorated by community organisations and individuals including High Ash CE School, Buttons Nursery and the village book club. Come and see the spectacle and enjoy our refreshments. Please contact Hazel on 270404 for more details.

Sunday 23rd December, 6pm Carol Singing at Stoke Hammond Village Green

Christmas Church Services...

Great Brickhill, St. Mary's Church

Sunday 23rd December, Village Nativity 11am - at the Old Red Lion, followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 5.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 25th December (Christmas Day) 11.00am Christmas Day Holy Communion

Little Brickhill, St. Mary Magdalene Church

Sunday 16th December, Carol Service 5.00pm

Tuesday 25th December, Holy Communion 9.30am

Stoke Hammond, St. Lukes Church

Sunday 2nd December, Christingle Service 4.00pm

Sunday 9th December Carol Service 4.00pm

Monday 24th December, Crib Service 4.00pm.

Monday 24th December, Holy Communion 11.30pm

Year 6 Christmas Cracked...

As you know our Year 6 children are taking part in this fast-moving and interactive presentation at Water Eaton Church Centre on Tuesday 11th December run by the Bridgebuilder Trust. Thank you for returning your consent forms. If you have not already done this, **please ensure you complete and return your consent form to the school office by Monday 3rd December.** You can locate a copy of this letter on our website attached to the diary dates.

Foundation/KS1 Nativities...

Please ensure you have **booked your seats online via our website by Monday 3rd December.** As you know, the afternoon productions are being professionally filmed and those parents that have paid **£10.00 per performance** will receive the link and protected password to access the recordings ready to upload to their chosen device within days of the productions being filmed. If you would like to receive this link, please make sure you have **paid via your parentpay account by Monday 3rd December.**

Good Companions Concert...

Auditions for solo/ensemble performances are taking place at lunchtime on **Monday 3rd December.** If your child is auditioning, please ensure they have their music and instrument with them on this day. Parents of children who have been successful will then be informed and invited to reserve seats to this event. All the choir and orchestra children will be performing at this concert and parents have been invited to attend. **Please ensure you have reserved your seats by booking online via our website by Friday 7th December.**

Autumn Clubs finishing...

All clubs will finish at the end of next week Friday 7th December. Please ensure your children are collected from school at 3.20pm when clubs have finished and if your child is to go home on the bus, please email the office with your child's home bus arrangements. Thank you.

Spring Wraparound Care...

Thank you to the parents that have already paid in full or their first instalment towards the cost of your child's or children's wraparound care for next term. If you have not yet done this, please make sure you have **paid your first instalment by Tuesday 4th December to avoid receiving any late payment charges as stated within our updated T&C's.**

Spring Clubs...

Cookery Club - We have not yet received enough interest in Cookery Club run by SmartRaspberry next term, Tuesday's and Thursday's from 3.30-4.30pm. If you would like to enrol your child in this club, please book and pay direct. You can locate the flyer with the booking information via our website under the 'Wrap and Clubs' tab. If we do not get enough interest in this club, we will have to cancel the sessions and arrange for the parents that have paid to be refunded.

Years 4 - 6 M-Sports Club - There are still spaces available. Those currently attending really enjoy this club - it gives them a chance to try new sports they wouldn't normally play at school, learn new skills and keep fit. The club runs on a Tuesday after school from 3.30-4.30pm. It is either indoors or outdoors depending on the weather and includes boys and girls from across the three year groups. This is what one girl said "*we play new sports like speed ball and puck hockey and we get to play with different people too. Multi-sports with Mr Anderson is lots of fun!*" If you wish to book a place for your child within this club, please email the office so we can add you to the payment item on Parentpay to enable you to book and pay securing your child a place within this club. If we do not get enough interest, we will have to cancel this club and refund the parents that already paid.

Health reminder...

This time of year as you know, bugs can spread, so if your child has sickness any diarrhoea, please remember they need to be off school for 48 hours after their last bout of illness- thank you.

The 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.

Mrs Reeve's Charity Headshave....

Next Friday 7th December after school in the playground, Mrs Reeves is having her head shaved to raise money for The Henry Allen Trust and would appreciate donations to this worthy cause and indeed some moral support. There is a collection tin at the office if you would like to make a donation. Thank you.

Finally...

On behalf of all staff and children, we wish Miss Kara Robinson all the best for her future as she finishes her apprenticeship with us today.

Other dates to remember...

Friday 7th December - Maple Class assembly followed by time in the classroom, doors open at 2.30pm
Monday 10th December - Foundation Dress Rehearsal and KS1 Dress Rehearsal to the whole school
Tuesday 11th December - Year 6 Christmas Cracked 12.30-2.30pm

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

Sara J Boyce

Sara Boyce
Headteacher

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