



# High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 14th December 2018



*Grow Together Shine Forever*



*'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16*



To all our families,

We are definitely in the full swing of Christmas preparations here at school and it has been a real pleasure this week to see the children performing so brilliantly in their Nativities and at the Good Companions Christmas Concert. Every single child in the school has taken part in some way and that is really important to us as a school community and what memories of school are made of.

The children have also enjoyed their Christmas Lunch today and a huge thank you to our kitchen team for their hard work in preparing nearly 300 hot meals! We also had the help of our HASA volunteers to support the staff in serving lunch.

### *Highlights this week....*

Foundation- It goes without saying that the children's Nativity performance of 'Whoops-a-daisy Angel' was a key highlight of the week and testament to how well the children are progressing, settling and enjoying school! It was great to see all of the proud faces of parents and grandparents alike and the children performed confidently and with wonderful singing voices. They were so excited to take part! They have been learning the true meaning of Christmas in their classrooms as well with the role play area as the stable in Bethlehem.

Also this week, thank you to the parents able to make it to the first of our 'See Us Shine' sessions and the feedback was really positive. It is lovely to be able to invite parents in to see what the children are learning in Foundation stage and for them to share their learning environment with you. A huge thank you to the teaching team for making these events work so well. The children also enjoyed going to see the Christmas Concert at Little Ashes Pre-School.

Year One and Two- What a brilliant Nativity production of 'Lights, Camel, Action!' by the children with clearly lots of hard work put in by the adults too! It was a humorous and modern take of the real Christmas story, whilst still retaining the true meaning of Christmas. A '10' from me! Well done to Dulcie, Jacob B, Emilia, Harvey and Kaiya for their super observational skills in Art sketching still life drawings of woodland animals. Zoe, Alice, Roseanne, Sam B, Jacob had produced some amazing adjectives in their writing and Angelina impressed me with her writing in her Topic book- keep up the super work everyone!

Year Three and Four- As the culmination of their topic on Anglo Saxons, Year Three and Four held a Trade Fair on Thursday and invited Year Five and Six to come and look at their learning and at their art and craft work. The children had clearly enjoyed learning about spears, battles, Saxon houses, clothing and writing. Great effort everyone! I have also seen super Maths learning on co-ordinates by Matilda, Olivia S, Alex, Jack B and Christopher with some good explanations to show their understanding. Bryce, Luca, Josh, Lucy, Caden, Matilda, Isla W and Lorelei had put a lot of effort into improving their story writing in class and Sam H, Autumn and Herbert had worked really hard on this in their home learning. Special mention to Shreyan for his learning in RE about Judaism.

Year Five and Six- The Year Six children took part this week in 'Christmas Cracked' run by the Bridgebuilder Trust at Water Eaton Church. The year groups have also been learning how to survive in the Arctic and apply their knowledge of co-ordinates in Geography. Cameron and Aaron have been working hard to improve their writing and have produced persuasive letters about animal protection in the wild.

### *Curriculum Overviews...*

In preparation for next term, you will receive via email by the end of term information about topics for next term and also the curriculum overviews as to what will be covered in English and Maths. There will also be details about Hook Days, so please read in advance- thank you!

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

It was a pleasure to host the annual Good Companions music concert this week and to welcome the community into our school. The standard of performances was very high and I was so proud of all the children's hard work and effort with many children working together to sing and play in little ensembles! Thank you to Mrs Gray for her role in inspiring and encouraging the musical talent in our school.

### *Charity news...*

As you know, one of our PROUD principles is to 'Understand the feelings of others' and Mrs Reeves, one of our Teaching Assistants, certainly showed that last week when she had her hair shaved off to raise money for the Henry Allen Trust. Henry's Mum, Dawn, also took part in the head shave, so it was quite an event! Mrs Reeves has raised a staggering £1,600 which is a truly remarkable amount and thanks everyone for their donations!

### *HASA Updates...*

Raffles & Refreshments - The HASA volunteers helped sell raffle tickets and provided refreshments at each of the Nativity performances and raised nearly £1,000 which is an absolutely phenomenal amount! Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and family members for their generous contributions.

Xmas Jumper Day - Lots of the children came in today wearing some lovely festive jumpers and we have raised an amazing £210 as well which will help towards the funds we are raising for the School.

Film Night - We are delighted that we have had lots of children sign up for the **Festive Film Night on Monday 17 December**. Unfortunately we have had to close bookings now as we are limited by not only the space in the classrooms but also the number of parent volunteers we have to help run the event. If you didn't manage to book your child a place for Film Night, please don't worry as HASA will be running another one just before the Easter holidays and again in the Summer Term before we break up for summer holidays. Please look out for more information on this next term.

HASA will be selling **donuts** on the playground after school on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**. Please bring some cash if you wish to buy a donut. Your support is always appreciated.

### *Christmas Gifts for the children...*

In the spirit of Christmas being a time for giving, this year (as last year), school have funded for Foundation and Key Stage One to have a magic show as their Christmas gift. Therefore, on Tuesday afternoon next week, 'Magic Carl' will be performing one of his magic shows for them!

As for the older children in Key Stage Two, each child will receive a small token gift to wish them a Merry Christmas from their class teacher.

### *100% Attendance...*

We have had 117 children out of 275 children on roll achieve 100% attendance this term. Overall our attendance is 97.5%. Many thanks to all parents who support us in achieving good attendance figures as it is an important national indicator in helping us sustain 'outstanding' status.

### *Christingle Oranges on Monday please...*

In order for us to prepare for our Christingle Church Services next week, please remember to send your child into school with a large orange on Monday to make our Christingle candles with for church. We look forward to our **Christingle Services on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30pm for Foundation and Key Stage One and on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30pm for KS2**. Both services are at St Mary's Great Brickhill. We look forward to seeing parents/grandparents there.

### *Carols at Little Brickhill Church this Sunday...*

This Sunday at 5pm, St Mary's at Little Brickhill have their Carol Service and I am honoured to have been asked to do a reading. I may well see some families there and am looking forward to it.

As a school, we are also doing readings at the Christmas Eve Service at St Mary's, Great Brickhill- busy times!

### *Primary School League tables...*

The Government published the primary school league tables this week and in terms of overall performance linked to attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of Year Six, we are currently 13 out of the 226 primary schools in Buckinghamshire. However, we are never ones to rest on our laurels and we will always continue to focus on progress, attainment and providing a high quality of education through our broad curriculum.

### *Spring Wrap Instalments...*

Thank you to all the parents that paid their first instalment by the due date or have paid multiple instalments in advance or have paid in full. We very much appreciate this. I wish to **remind all other parents that the next instalment due date is the 4<sup>th</sup> January**. Please adhere to this deadline to avoid receiving any late payment charges of £5.00 for every 5 working days you are late making your payment, as stated within our T&C's.

### *Spring Term Clubs...*

You will have received a text message reminder confirming the clubs you have booked your child to attend next term along with the dates the clubs start and finish. If you believe you have booked your child into a club and you do not receive a text message, please email the office for checking.

### *Spring Term Bus Arrangements...*

For those children that go home on the Stoke Hammond or Little Brickhill bus, please ensure you either complete the attached reply slip and **return to the school office by Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**, or **email the office** with your child's bus arrangements home for the whole term. Thank you.

### *Finally, an update on Christmas in WRAP around care.....*

Our WRAP staff have been getting the children into a festive mood with Christmas art and craft activities as you can see from the photos below!



That's all for this week- there will be a final newsletter for the term on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### *Diary reminders...*

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December - F/KS1 Christingle Service at Church 1.30pm

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December - HASA Festive Film Night 3.30-5.15pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December - KS2 Christingle Service at Church 1.30pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December - F/KS1 'Magic Carl' show

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December - HASA Donut Sale

END OF TERM

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - School Re-opens at 8.50am

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

*Sara J Boyce*

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