



High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 4th January 2019



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

To all our families,

Welcome back to all our children and families and Happy New Year! We hope you had a good break and time together. It has been great to have the children back at school and they have come back full of enthusiasm and keen to get started on their new topics!

Highlights this week...

Foundation- The children have come back to the frozen magic of 'Ice Journey' and have been exploring polar animals from their Polar Station! Leo and Callum were using their binoculars to look for wildlife and all the children had a go at the Penguin Quiz! We also welcomed two new children to our Foundation Class, Beatrice and Aria who have settled in well to the team!

Year One and Two- What an amazing start to the term, the children had Rio come to High Ash and we went full on into Carnival mode. Never have I seen so much colour in one place! The children loved making their carnival masks and headgear, finding out what a carnival is and then dancing and parading all around the school. They danced the Samba in the hall and had a great time! The teachers were impressed with how much the children wanted to find out about such a contrasting culture to their own.

On the last day of term, Eliza and Oscar B came to share with me their excellent story writing so well done to them both!



Welcome to Anisha and Blythe into Key Stage One as new members of the school!

Year Three and Four- For their Hook Day, the children learnt all about the digestive system in an interactive, fun way by using a model to show how our food is digested and then 'passed through' the body at the other end! They had a wonderful time mashing up food as the stomach does and then pushing it through the intestines (using nylon tights!) and then seeing how the liquid and solid body waste separated out - I am sure you get the idea! They also had a visit from the dentist (thank you to Debbie Patel) and used disclosure tablets to see how they could improve their own dental hygiene.

Year Five and Six- The children arrived in school yesterday morning to see a cordoned off 'crime scene' in the library and then had to become detectives to catch the criminal! They had to watch CCTV footage (very convincingly created by the teaching team), use feet and hand measurements to work out height of suspects, look for clues, write and produce a public CrimeWatch appeal, eliminate suspects in a line up and then test for finger prints. They were literally buzzing with excitement! This was topped by a real life visit from a Detective Inspector (thank you to Mr Fitton) who answered the children's questions about how police work to use clues and forensics to solve crimes. Wow! As Bibi said, 'This is the best Hook Day ever!'



Just before we broke up, seven of our Year Six children received Gold Stars for their independent writing linked to the Titanic so a special mention to Asha, Bibi, Fleur, Kiera, Connor, Ethan and Billy. Finally, welcome to Sanjay into Year Five!

Assemblies this week....

This week we have discussed with the children what it means to them to be at a Church School and how this is distinct from other schools. It was good to ensure the children understood that a Church of England School is inclusive of 'all faiths and none', is there for the whole community and to develop their moral character underpinned by values based in Christian teachings. We talked about how it was more than about going to church, but about how we 'let our light shine' on others and our distinct history and values. I asked the children what made them proud to be at a Church School and these were some of their replies:

- ★ 'A church school is good for academic success, yet it is also about developing you and your personality and character too'- Kiera
- ★ 'It's about learning to be a good person from reading and thinking about Bible Stories'- Elizabeth
- ★ 'It is about knowing how to be good and doing the right thing'- Alfie F
- ★ 'I am proud that everyone is accepted and no one is left out'- Ethan J
- ★ 'We go out to the community a lot'- Jacob B
- ★ 'We belong to our community of friends'- Molly M
- ★ 'We let our light shine to help others'- Maha

Assemblies this term....

The rest of this term our focus is on character and helping the children to develop positivity, personal responsibility and resilience. We will be using 'The Art of Being Brilliant' resources and also linking to Bible Stories about David and Goliath and Daniel and the Lions as we support the children to have a growth mindset and come out of their comfort zones in order to let their light shine more brightly on themselves and also on to others.

Parent Forums this term...

As well as the usual updates from myself, at the Parent Forums this term, Wednesday 23rd January at 9.00am and repeated at 6.00pm, I will be updating parents on the 'Art of Being Brilliant' resources and how parents can support this initiative at home as well. You will be able to book your attendance online via our website from Monday next week.

Request for second hand quality PE kit...

If you have any plain blue PE shorts or plain white T-shirts that your child has outgrown and yet are still of good quality, please could you donate to school as spare PE kit - thank you. Please note, we do **not** need any of the old style PE kit (old logo).

Spring 2019 Clubs...

Please see list of clubs below running this term: -

Monday - Dodgeball & Netball (ClubsforSchools) - 3.30-4.30pm from 7th January to 1st April

Tuesday - Multi-Sports (Mr Anderson) - 3.30-4.30pm from 8th January to 2nd April

Tuesday - Cookery Club (SmartRaspberry) - 3.30-4.30pm from 8th January to 2nd April

Wednesday - Orchestra - 12.30-1.00pm - from 9th January to 20th March

Wednesday - Board Games & Art - 3.20-4.00pm - from 9th January to 20th March

Thursday - Multi-Sports (Mr Anderson) - 3.30-4.30pm from 3rd January to 4th April

Thursday - Choir - 3.20-4.15pm from 10th January to 21st March

Friday - Badminton (ClubsforSchools) - 3.30-4.30pm from 4th January to 5th April

Friday - Gardening 12.30-1.25pm from 11th January to 22nd March

Those parents that booked their children in to any of these clubs, would have received a text message confirmation at the end of last term reminding you when these clubs start and finish.

Diary dates...

Please remember to check all the diary dates on the school website - thank you!

Diary dates coming up in next two weeks....

Tuesday 8th January - Yr3/4 Basketball Festival at Sir Thomas Freemantle School - 3.45-5.45pm

Friday 11th January - Star Assembly - doors open at 2.30pm all welcome!

Tuesday 15th January - Yr5/6 Basketball Festival at Sir Thomas Freemantle School - 3.45-5.45pm

Friday 18th January - Star Assembly - doors open at 2.30pm all welcome!

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

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