



High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 11th January 2019



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

To all our families,

What a busy first full week we have had back in school and it really is great to see the buzz and love of learning fill the school.

Highlights this week....

Foundation- There has been much excitement this week at the finding of a large egg in the school grounds and the children have been looking for a safe place to keep it, learning all about how eggs need warmth to hatch. They have used magnifying glasses to make careful observations and looked at its size, shape, touch and feel. Every child has predicted what could be in the egg and it has been great seeing their creativity. They all made lovely suggestions of what they thought might hatch from the egg, such as, dinosaurs, birds, baby penguin or even a crocodile. They have also learned a lot about how eggs hatch and used binoculars to see if they can spot any more. Thank you to all the children that brought the egg to show me, they decided that it could not be a hen's egg as the egg is too big.



Well done to Alissa H for using her phonics to write a sentence about penguins and to Henry K for his Maths work about adding on 'one more' to a number.

Year One and Two- This current topic on 'Rio de Vida' focuses on Geography and Science so that the children learn about continents and the seasons. In Science this week, the classes have been learning about the four seasons and thank you to George and Jaiden in Chestnut Class for explaining the differences to me. In English they have been describing the landscape in Rio and being very precise in their word choices. Well done to Cedar Class for contributing to our assembly display about what assemblies mean to you- some great reflections.

Year Three and Four- In Science, the children have continued to learn about the digestive system and I liked the way that Olivia L, Matilda and Molly S had decided to explain their understanding of the journey of a banana through the human body! Bella had shown her sketching skills in using light and shade to draw teeth. Olivia S, Millie T and Alex B had impressed me with their Maths reasoning linked to rounding numbers. In RE, Lily, Ishan and Georgia had thought really hard about what assemblies mean to them and also had learnt about the symbolism of water in Christianity, thinking of their own words as to why water has a special meaning.

Year Five and Six-

I have seen lots of great Maths reasoning this week from all the groups, with trying to understand volume of shapes, mastering decimals and then also in Year Six learning about powers of 10. Caleb, Billy, Phoebe, Asha, Rohan and Daniel had shown their knowledge of standard form by creating a maths crossword with numbers rather than letters and Ellie H had also worked hard in her Maths group too. In English, they are looking at how to write mysterious openers and have continued their ID topic by looking at the purpose of branching databases.

Termly Report Cards....

Today your child will come home with their termly report card in their school diary/book bag so please do check for this. If you cannot see it, then please ask the class teacher for your copy. This is just a summary of the stage your child is now working on this term (as per our school assessment system) and a brief comment from the class teacher. This is so you are kept informed of how your child is doing. Please remember we have Parents' Evenings later this term on Tuesday 5th February 3.30-6.00pm and Thursday 7th February 5.00-7.30pm when you will be able to meet with the teachers who take your child for English and Maths. If you have any questions before then, please see your class teacher. If you are new to our school, our assessment system is on our website, please feel

free to ask your child's teacher if you are unsure.

For those of you with children in Foundation the number relates to the age of the child in months and the letter relates to the stage they are at. These stages progress from B (Beginning), D (Developing) to S (Secure). A child working at age related expectations will be at 40-60months D and exceeding will be working at 40-60months S or ELG (Early Learning Goal). If your child is working below 40-60months D then they still have made good progress from their starting point. If you have any questions to this please see the class teacher.

Pupil Progress meetings...

I met with every class teacher on Monday to review pupil progress data and to ensure that we are challenging all our children thus ensuring all children are maximising their progress. If there is a concern, then we have put additional support measures in place to help. That said, 90% of our children are making the progress we would expect and we are pleased to see we have more children on track to reach Platinum than we did last year.

Sporting news....

Some of our Year Three/Four children represented our school at a Basketball Festival at Sir Thomas Freemantle School on Tuesday 8th January. We competed against 12 other local schools and came a very impressive 5th place! Congratulations to Alfie B, Alex B, Theo G, Reggie K, Lawrence W, Harrison A, Orla H, Autumn L, Skye C, Millie T, Florence C for representing our school so well! Thanks also to staff and parents who went with the team.

Parent Forum reminder.....

Our next Parent Forum with Mrs Boyce is on **Wednesday 23rd January at 9.00am and repeated at 6.00pm.** Please book your attendance via our website selecting the 'Parents' tab followed by 'Booking In-School Events'. Please complete and **submit your booking form by Friday 18th January.**

SIMS app...

Thank you to all the parents that have downloaded the SIMS App to your mobile device, we hope you are finding this app useful. You are able to securely view your own contact information and make any amendments to your contact numbers, address etc. The office will be alerted to any changes that you may have made and will update the information school holds. You can also see your child's attendance record and all calendar dates within this app. For those parents that have not yet done this, we have re-sent you an invite with instructions to download this app. We urge all parents to make use of this app so that you can ensure the school has all the correct data information relating to your child enabling the school to be able to contact you in case of an emergency. We no longer send out Data Collection sheets for parents to check, amend and return, we ask that parents please check this data via the app and make all necessary amendments. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parents' Evening bookings.....

We hope to have the online booking service live from Monday 21st January via our website for parents to book appointments with their child's / children's Maths and English teachers. You will receive a text message as soon as the booking system is live. Please make sure you book your time slot with the correct teachers promptly upon receipt of this email to ensure you are able to select the time slot most convenient for you. Thank you.

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

Tuesday 15th January - Year 5/6 Basketball Festival at Sir Thomas Freemantle School - 3.45-5.45pm

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

Tuesday 22nd January - Choir at Young Voices in Birmingham

Wednesday 23rd January - Parent Forum at 9am and repeated at 6pm - all welcome!

Friday 25th January - Chestnut Class Assembly at 2.45pm, followed by time in the classroom. Doors open at 2.30pm.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

Sara J Boyce

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