



# High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

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

To all our families,

Thank you to all parents/carers for your understanding regarding our decision to close the school on Friday due to snow and ice. Myself and the Chair of Governors did not take this decision lightly and did so in the interests of safety for children and staff due to the difficult conditions on the access roads to school as well as the site itself. Looking at the forecast, we will be open as normal on Monday. Thank you also to Mr Priestley, our Site Manager, who has worked hard all of this week to grit pathways and playgrounds and was at school at 6am this Friday morning to check the site out. In fact, at 6:10am today myself, Mrs Hargreaves (Chair of Governors) and Mr Priestley were all on hand to confirm our decision to close and our Chair of Governors also managed to assess the site in person with Mr Priestley, which greatly helped me make an informed choice as to what to do for the best.

### **Star Assembly...**

As we were closed today, please note that at our Star Assembly next week, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February, we will ensure all the birthdays due to be celebrated at the assembly today and also the performance by Young Voices will now happen on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. That is also true of any 'Star Outside of School' awards and the certificates to be given to our Year Three/Four hockey players, so please reassure the children as I know these things do matter to them....and me!

### **Lunches/Club and WRAP refunds from Snow Day...**

**Lunches** - Please note that all lunches bought for today, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February have been refunded to you due to snow closure.

**Wraparound Care** - For those parents whose children were registered to attend wraparound care this morning and today after school, please deduct the cost of the session from you next instalment for this terms bookings. For any parents that have paid in full, this will be deducted from the cost of our bookings when made for next term. **All parents that do currently pay instalments, if you have not already made your next payment, please do so by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February and remember to deduct any cancelled sessions for this week. Thank you.**

**Clubs for Schools** - We have received confirmation from Clubs for Schools that you will all be refunded for today's cancelled Badminton Club session. You should have already been refunded for the cancelled Netball and Dodgeball sessions on Monday this week. All clubs will recommence as normal next week.

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

#### Foundation-

It has been lovely to see Foundation practising for their sharing assembly which is coming up on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February as per the school diary. They have also been very excited to watch their Dinosaur eggs hatching, painting and drawing dinosaurs and dinosaur spotting around the learning environment and outside! In Phonics, they have been learning the sounds 'ay' and 'ee'.

Year One and Two- This week the children have been adding to their knowledge of the continents and oceans and are also planning how to write a travel guide for Rio de Janeiro. Max S and Jacob J had written about the differences between Rio and Great Brickhill and could describe them to me. Zoe V had also written a detailed comparison of these two localities and had clearly applied all her learning from English lessons into her Topic book. Max, Jacob and Zoe are only in Year One, yet already writing at a high level for their age- wow! The year groups have also been learning about different weather symbols, which has been helpful this week! Harvey shared with me how he had decided which weather symbols best suited the climates in each continent. Well done also to Blythe for her super reasoning about shapes in Maths!

Year Three and Four- The quality of home learning continues to impress us at school and it does show the children are able to apply what they have learnt at school independently. This week Fred H, Jake M, Ishan, Ayrtan, Grace and Autumn shared their brilliant home learning with me- keep up the great work! In RE, Orla and Skye were proud to show me their learning on the Holy Trinity (not an easy one to explain!). Nelka had come up with some excellent facts about how to tackle bacteria with good hygiene standards and Alfie and Alex showed some of their Science reasoning skills in being able to explain how their experiment proved that saliva contains enzymes to break food down. Alfie also came with Reggie, Thomas and Theo G to show their reasoning in Maths, all impressive stuff! Varsha, Alex H, Millie T and Isaac P demonstrated good strategies for working out word meanings in Guided Reading

and Millie had also earned Gold Stars for RE and Science. Finally, Ava and Jess were proud to share with me their construction model they had been working on collaboratively at lunchtime.

Year Five and Six- I have really enjoyed reading Year Five and Six mysterious narratives and a special mention to Tristan, Asha, Phoebe, Charlie and Olivia B for their hard work and determination to improve. Mason wrote an excellent letter in his Home Learning book and Apple really wowed Mrs Goodger with her word choices and narrative structure. This week, Miss Beech's Maths group had the Head of Maths from Cottesloe School come to observe them so we could share with the secondary school how well we challenge our children here at High Ash. She was very impressed and also gave some ideas to the children as well. They were using their knowledge of % to show % increases, including how to calculate VAT and then interest rates on mortgages. Not bad at age 11! In PE, Lincoln and Sanjay demonstrated excellent balancing skills in gymnastics and again showed great teamwork.

### Special mentions....

As you know, our key school values are underpinned by 'Let your Light Shine' onto others and we often talk about our PROUD principle of 'Understanding the feelings of others' and showing care and love towards one another. Well, three groups of children have really stood out for me this week and are deserving of a special mention and a thank you.

- ★ First of all, I would like to thank Matilda, Imogen, Olivia L and Lorelei for taking it upon themselves to organise an Eco Squad at lunchtime to pick up any litter and keep the environment tidy. They are also going to look into ways that we can reduce our single use plastic waste as we are aiming to be single use plastic free by 2022 if not sooner! We already use paper bags for uniforms and for cookery club, yet we can always get better. Watch this space!
- ★ Then, I would also like to thank Darcey, Willow, Ella, Elliot and James who every lunchtime are working hard to tend to the garden and plants in the KS1 Quiet Area. Mrs Williams is very grateful for all of their help.
- ★ Finally, thank you once again to the Year Six librarians for their continual hard work and commitment to keeping the library tidy and with writing their book recommendations as well.

### Parents' Evenings next week...

We are looking forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evenings next week and for you to meet this term with your child's English and Maths group teachers. Apologies that we had to change the Thursday meetings with Mrs Crawley to Wednesday, yet this was due to unforeseen circumstances and we have worked to rearrange these meetings. All other teacher meetings are on the dates as planned.

If your child has started with our school since October 2018, then I will be available on both evenings to catch up with these families to discuss Parent Forums, HASA, communication home, assembly format and other information, so please come and find me if possible and I will also keep a look out to catch up with you informally as well.

In order to ease the flow waiting to see the teachers, please note the following meeting points where the teachers will come and collect you from:

- ★ Foundation- Please wait as usual in the Rainbow Room area and books will be available
- ★ Miss Little- Please wait at the end of the Rainbow Room area in Foundation by the white entrance door
- ★ Miss Akram and Mrs Burrows- please wait in the corridor outside Cedar Class
- ★ Year Three and Four- please wait in the main library area
- ★ Mr Brooks and Mrs Goodger- please wait outside Maple Class
- ★ Miss Beech- please wait outside Willow Class
- ★ Mrs Gray- Please wait in the alcove in the library outside Oak Class

*The focus of these meetings is to see their work in English and Maths however all books will be available for you to look at. Your child's books will be in trays in the hall to collect and then return, so please go there first if your child is in Years 1-6 and then take your tray to the appointments.*

I will also be available should any parent wish to speak to me directly about your child's progress.

Please note that we do actively encourage the children to attend the parents meeting with you; however the final decision regarding this rests with you as the parent.

### Art of Being Brilliant....

We are continuing to work with the children to support their well-being by our focus on being positive and adopting a 'can do' attitude via a growth mindset and also through actions which make them the best version of themselves. There is a short video clip for parents which we will be showing at the start of Star Assemblies and also will be playing in the hall at the Parents' Evening sessions next week if you are interested.

Your children have been thinking about their Top 10 Happiest Moments and so it may be interesting for you to ask them about this. They have all focused on experiences with their families and friends that involve love and laughter rather than just having 'stuff' which is good to hear. You could maybe tell them your top 10 happiest moments too as a conversation starter!



Next week we will be looking at pushing ourselves to come out of our 'comfort zones', so again, all good discussion points at home as well as school!

### *Sports Success..*

Six of our Year Three and Four children represented our school at a Hockey Festival at Sir Thomas Fremantle School on Tuesday after school. The children put in lots of effort and as a result of their hard work and determination, they came third overall! Super result! Well done to Bella, Bryce, Jake M, Madeline, Samuel and Sienna.

### *Parent Governor elections...*

We will be writing to parents on Monday to inform you of the election procedures for a Parent Governor should we have more than one nomination. If this is the case, then the candidates will be asked to be available at 3:20pm next Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February after school in the hall if you wish to meet them.

### *Diary dates coming up....*

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February - Parent's Evening with English & Maths Teachers 3.30-6.00pm

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February - Parent's Evening with Mrs Crawley 3.30-6.00pm

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Parent's Evening with English & Maths Teachers 5.00-7.30pm (excluding Mrs Crawley)

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February - Star Assembly - doors open at 2.30pm all welcome!

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Foundation Assembly - doors open at 2.30pm followed by a chance to look in Foundation class afterwards

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February - break up for half term

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February - return to school

Hope you all have a super weekend and see you back in school on Monday.

Best wishes

*Sara J Boyce*

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Headteacher

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