



High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 15th February 2019



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

To all our families,

Here we are at the end of half term already! The children have really shown how much they have learnt in their Topics as we have asked them to mind map or list all the new knowledge they have gained and it is quite impressive what they have retained!

There is also a lot in this week's newsletter to cover, so please keep reading!

New Topics and Hook Days...

You will have received information this week about our Hook Days for after half term, all of which take place on the same day, **Monday 25th February**. Here is a quick reminder:

- ★ Year One and Two- Their topic is 'Land Ahoy' and the focus is on Geography and learning about the coast of the UK through the eyes of pirates! They will also be developing their map reading and orienteering skills. **Please send your child in to school dressed as a pirate!**
- ★ Year Three and Four- We go back in time to Ancient Greece and 'Gods and Mortals' with their Hook Day focusing on 'Theseus and the Minotaur'. **Please send your child into school with a cereal box.**
- ★ Year Five and Six- It's 'Off With Her Head!' this term, with a History focus on the Tudors and the influential King Henry VIII. The children have a visit from a real life King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn on Monday 25th February to launch this topic. The children are to come to school in their normal school uniform. School are funding this visit. **They just need to bring an orange on the day!**

You have also been emailed home today from each team their Curriculum Overviews for next term (including English and Maths).

Highlights this week...

Foundation- What a treat it was to watch Foundation's Sharing Assembly today and to see how much they have learned and also enjoyed learning about life in the Arctic! I think the penguin song was definitely my favourite! They all did so well to perform to such a large audience. Well done everyone! We also had a review from Read Write Inc Phonics this week and the team did really well in demonstrating our success in delivering this programme and supporting early reading.

Reminder - Our next Foundation 'See us Shine' mornings are soon to take place on Monday 4th March and Tuesday 5th March from 9.00-10.00am. If you have not yet booked to attend either of the mornings, please do so online via our school website by Wednesday 27th February. Please log on to www.highashschool.co.uk, click on the 'Parents' tab followed by 'Booking in-school events' and click on the date you wish to attend, complete and submit your booking form. Please note, we are only able to accommodate one adult per child as our space in the classroom is limited.

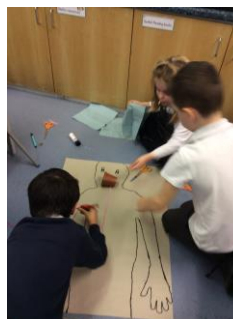
Year One and Two- The children have really enjoyed learning about continents and oceans in this Topic and have produced some great key facts and quizzes to show they have remembered what they have learnt! Well done to Beau, Ben L and Blythe for sharing these! I was proud to see Annalise's determination to improve (one of our PROUD principles) in Maths this week, with her confidence growing in knowing how to subtract mentally. Harrison H also showed that he has been listening in assembly this week to our message of 'Do it better than you have to' as he applied this by tidying not only his locker area, but that of others too!

Year Three and Four- To demonstrate their understanding of what they have learnt in Science, the children are writing explanation texts about the mouth and its role in the digestive system. I have been really impressed with the technical vocabulary the children know and can talk about. Bryce, Lottie, Olivia L, Polly, Peter, Sakhile, Josh T, Nelkha and Morgan all came to show me their explanation text introductions which were really interesting to read. Mrs Crawley was challenging her group to add in a range of explanation features and Mrs Brakefield had her group peer assessing each other's work. Greta contributed well in assembly about looking at how we could 'Do things better than we have to' and rightly deserved her Headteacher sticker. Ollie H, Caylee B and Anya had persevered in Maths with reasoning when adding fractions- well done for their effort on this! In RE, Autumn, Alex H and Morgan had thought carefully about how they could be thankful for what they may take for granted. Autumn and Madeleine E composed a song in RE about God's support and sang it in assembly on Thursday. Both girls were proud of coming out of their comfort zone! Finally, I have to mention the super Maths home work from

Jake M, Nelkha, Sophia and Morgan who had to set 'deliberate mistakes' in their calculations to see if their parents could spot them! I also sent home a Headteacher sticker to these parents who all did very well in spotting the errors!

To finish off their Topic, the children have made models of the digestive system as you can see from the photos below on the next page! This activity required them to demonstrate what knowledge they had retained from their learning this half term.

Year Three and Four models of the digestive system...



Year Five and Six- Year Six have completed some mock SATS this week as part of our mid-year assessments as there are only ten teaching weeks until SATS now and some test practice is a good thing. We don't over test at High Ash, yet it is important they are familiar with the test format prior to May. They have also completed their Topic mind maps and they took part in a 'What is History' lesson with myself and the teachers to help us see how well they could put key historical events in chronological order and debate the purpose of why we study History by challenging Henry Ford's infamous quote that 'History is more or less bunk'.



Arianwen and Sian achieved a gold star for their arithmetic progress and for all the effort and practice they have been putting into this. Cameron had completed some excellent English Homework where he had turned the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears into a police report. He really captured the humour of the task so well- it genuinely made me laugh out loud! Likewise, Erin's police report was equally hilarious in its style and humour. Isaac C had some Maths to share with me linked to statistics- all great stuff. Finally, Maddie, Elisha and Elliot had impressed Mrs Goodger with their descriptive writing and so equally deserved their Gold Stars too.

Parent Governor Election result....

Thank you to all our parents who voted in the Parent Governor elections with 190 votes cast. The count was held on Thursday and Mrs Kathryn Middleton was elected as Parent Governor with 111 votes. Many thanks to Mr Anthony McGee who also stood. Both candidates demonstrated a desire to support our school continue to move forward and this is much appreciated. Thank you also for voting in the numbers you did as we had about a 60% turnout from all ballot papers issued.

Football news....

Our football team demonstrated the PROUD principles at their away match last night against Newton Longville School. Facing defeat at half time at 2-0 down, they showed their determination to improve and their efforts paid off as they ended up then scoring three goals and winning 3-2! Whilst the result is great, it is the effort I am most proud of. Well done to Mason D, Tristan H, Cameron M, Matthew R, Aaron Q, George K, Charlie T, Caleb Y, Jason N, Connor Mc for their team work. Thank you also to Mr Brooks for his half time motivational chat!

World Thinking Day....

The Scout and Guide movement have their annual 'World Thinking Day' on 22nd February. Since this is in half term, we encouraged children who attend these clubs to wear their uniforms on Friday in school. More information about World Thinking Day can be found via this link:

<https://www.waggs.org/en/what-we-do/world-thinking-day/>

Assemblies this week...

This week our focus has been on encouraging the children to continue to improve by making them focus on these seven words, 'Do it better than you have to.' They have discussed how they could apply this to scenarios such as

practising spellings, doing homework, being a friend, how they behave and in helping tidying up! Our Open the Book assembly linked in by focusing on the story 'Samuel Hears a Voice' and we thought about whose advice we listen to and why.

Next term, our focus on 'The Art of Being Brilliant' continues and it links with having a growth mindset. We also will be linking in with Lent and Easter.

BCC & MK Home to School Bus Transport...

Please ensure that all children travelling to and from school using the school buses always have their bus pass with them. Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes County Council Transport Departments do carry out random unscheduled spot checks to ensure that only the children eligible and those carrying a valid bus pass are to travel on the school buses. Thank you.

Summer 2019 Clubs...

You will have received a list of clubs that we are offering next term sent via parentpay yesterday with all the information on how to book your child's places and where to book them.

To recap on this information, please see below: -

Monday - Dodgeball and Friday - Badminton clubs are run by Clubs for Schools, please book and pay online direct.

Tuesday - Cookery club is run by SmartRaspberry, please book and pay online direct.

Wednesday - Science club run by Mother Nature Science, please book and pay online direct.

***Please see flyers on how to book and pay to secure your child a place within these clubs via our website.**

Monday - Netball, Thursday - Choir and Friday - Gardening clubs, all run by staff and parent helpers within our school so are free. Please complete and submit an online booking form via our school website to secure your child a place within these clubs.

Tuesday - Lego club is now FULL

Thursday - M-Sports club is FULL

For your information all internal clubs run by teachers and parent helpers will commence week beginning Monday 29th April to Friday 12th July running for 10 weeks. All external paid clubs will run for the whole of the Summer term, 12 weeks, from Wednesday 24th April to Monday 22nd July to coincide with our wraparound care dates.

Summer 2019 Wrap...

Thank you to the parents that have completed and submitted their excel booking spreadsheets for Summer Term wraparound care. If you have not yet done this, please ensure this is done by the time we return to school on Monday 25th February. The office team aim to confirm your places and submit your invoices by Friday 8th March.

Spring 2019 Wrap Final Instalment...

May I please remind those parents that are currently paying in instalments to pay their final instalment by Monday 4th March to avoid receiving a late payment charge. Thank you to all the parents that have been consistent with paying their instalments by the deadline dates requested and to those that have paid in full. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Prescribed Medicines and Forms...

May we remind you that we cannot administer prescribed medicines without a completed 'Administer Medicine' form. All medicines must be prescribed and handed in to the office in its originally prescribed packaging together with the completed form. All medicines must then be signed in and signed back out daily. Thank you.

Diary dates

Monday 25th February - return to school

Monday 25th February - Hook Day for Years 1 to 6

Tuesday 26th February - Y5/6 Basketball Finals @ The Buckingham School 3.45-6.00pm

Wednesday 27th February - HASA Winter Disco Foundation/KS1 - 3.30-4.30pm and KS2 - 5.00-6.00pm

Friday 1st March - Star Assembly at 2.45pm - doors open at 2.30pm, all welcome!

Monday 4th March - KS2 Dance Festival @ The Buckingham School Main Hall 3.45-6.00pm

Friday 8th March - Cedar Class Assembly at 2.45pm - door open at 2.30pm, chance to look in class afterwards

Have a great half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 25th February.

Sara J Boyce

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Headteacher

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