



High Ash C of E School Weekly Newsletter Friday 7th September 2018



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

To all our families,

Welcome back to the new academic year and I hope you have had a good summer. It has been a busy time for us over the holidays preparing the school and we are really pleased to have all our new signage up and in place and inside the school has undergone a bit of a makeover as well! Thank you so much to all parents as every single child turned up in the new uniform- I really do appreciate your support with that as it is a key part of our standards and high expectations. Our emergency roof works should be completed by early next week.

Website update...

Our new website is due to 'go live' w/c 18th September so please use our current website until then. We will of course text to let you know when the new site is up and running.

Highlights this week...

It may have only been a short two day week, however we have still packed a lot in!

Foundation- It was wonderful to welcome our new Foundation children to school this week and they have settled in brilliantly. We have expanded the Foundation class learning area so there is plenty of extra indoor space now. We will be starting over the next couple of weeks to baseline the children so we can accurately ascertain their starting points ready to help us maximise their progress over this year. Daily phonics will start from Monday 18th September and on **Tuesday 25th September at 9am** there will be a **Phonics Workshop** for Foundation parents to attend. **Please book your attendance by logging on to <https://highash.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> by Friday 21st September. This will be live for booking by the end of the day Monday 10th September. Thank you.**

Year One and Two- These year groups began their topic on 'Dinosaurs' with their Hook Day on Friday when the Travelling Natural History Museum paid us a visit! It was like Jurassic Park in the hall with all the dinosaur models. What a great way to get them all engaged in their new learning and the children loved it!

Year Three and Four- The children have their Hook Day for their 'Potions' topic on Tuesday next week - they don't know what it involves yet so I can't spoil the secret!

Year Five and Six- To start their topic on 'Alchemy Island' their Hook Day today involved solving puzzles on a map, orienteering and riddles.

Curriculum Overviews...

In order to help you know more about the areas of English and Maths being covered this term for your child and about this half term's topic, the **Curriculum Overviews will be sent home to you by Friday 14th September.**

Home/School Planners...

Following feedback from our Parent Forum, we have re-launched the school planners this year. Your child will be coming home with one this week (Foundation children will get theirs on Monday). Reading will be recorded in this planner and also for Key Stage Two a copy of weekly spellings will come home in the planner. The teachers are going through expectations with the children about how to use the planners and as a leadership team we will also be monitoring these to ensure they are up to standard and are being used as intended. There are some sections at the front for parents to read and sign and in the back there is phonics information, key words for spellings (all year groups) and 100 square, number line and times tables grid.

Rewards for good work...

Just to clarify, if a child in Foundation does a super piece of work, they receive a sticker from the teacher and may be selected to come and share their learning with me.

In Years One and Two, the children receive (and love!) Monster Points for good work and again may be selected to share that learning with me.

In Key Stage Two, the children are rewarded for super work with a Gold Star and then come and show this to me. These Gold Stars will be recorded in their planners. They are for exceptional work, so getting a Gold Star is not an everyday experience- it is a big deal!

All children who have been to see me in a week with good work have their names in the newsletter that week!

PE Kits...

Please remember to ask your child to bring their **PE kit into school on Monday 10th September** so we have it in time for when their PE lessons take place - thank you. For hygiene reasons, children are not allowed to share PE kit so please check your child has all the equipment they need to take part. We will be sending a home reminder if children do not have their kit, as PE is a key part of the curriculum.

Assembly theme for this term...

Our whole school assembly theme for this half term is linked to understanding more about the meaning of our school bible quote. 'Let Your Light Shine' Matthew 5:16. We are also encouraging the children to get more actively involved in contributing to weekly prayers in assembly and we do have a new Prayer Basket for their offerings. If your child does write a prayer at home, they are more than welcome to put it in the Prayer Basket in the hall or in their classroom's Soul Space. As you know, we also start our 'Open the Book' assemblies next week which will be led by the Church every Thursday.

Year Six Transfer Test...

Next Tuesday 11th September (morning) is the Preparation Test and then on Thursday 13th September (morning) we have the actual Transfer Test. Please note that we are a Test Administration Site only and we need to follow precise guidance and timings provided by Bucks CC.

If you **DO NOT** wish your child to take the tests, you must put this in writing to me either before the Preparation Test or by the actual test that takes place on Thursday next week.

Homework reminder (Years One to Six)

Just to remind you that English and Maths homework is set weekly on a Wednesday and is due for return on a Monday. This will start from next week. Foundation parents will get separate information about home learning over the next few weeks. If you have a Foundation child, the key to helping them at the moment is to keep reading plenty of stories to them and discussing the stories you read. You will get ideas for how to help at home with Phonics at the workshop on the Tuesday 25th September.

Walking Bus...

Some of our new parents may not be aware that our school has a Walking Bus run by a team of volunteers (all DBS checked) who meet at the Parish Hall (Bottom of Rotten Row by the Cricket Club) from 8:30am each morning and then walk the children up to school in hi-visibility jackets. All aspects of road safety are covered and it allows the children a fresh air walk to school in the morning with their friends and also prevents a build up of cars/parking issues outside our school. If you are interested, please come along and have a go one morning and see for yourself. It also means that you can drop your children off early and easily park your car and then get out on to the main road more quickly!

New pupils/parents Parentpay Registration...

All new pupils will be sent home today with a Parentpay registration letter to set up an account. Please follow the instruction given when registering. Your prompt action would be appreciated to ensure you continue to receive all school communication. When registered, you will be able to book your child's hot school meals up to half term via your parentpay account - you will not be charged. We use Parentpay to communicate with parents and to enable parents to pay for trips, uniform, school meals, wraparound care and some external clubs. It is important your Parentpay account is always up to date with the correct email address you wish to receive our communication to. If both parents wish to receive our communication, please inform the office so that we can issue you with an additional activation code to allow the other parent to register.

Data Collection...

Many of our current parents may have uploaded the SIMS App on to their mobile device that gives them access to their child's data that we hold on file. For those parents that have access to this App, it is important that if you have recently moved house or changed your contact numbers and or doctors that you update this yourselves via the App. If you do have access to this App, please email office@highash.bucks.sch.uk with any changes so that we can update this our end to ensure our data is always up to date and correct. For all new parents that may be interested in this SIMS App, you will receive an invite within the next couple of weeks. We no longer send out paper copies of the Data Collection sheets we hold on file as we do expect parents to inform us if there are any changes to be made to your child's contacts, address etc. This can be done either by emailing the office or via the App.

Autumn 2018 Wraparound Care....

Reminder, please remember to log on to your parentpay account to pay your next instalment or make you final payment for your wraparound care bookings for this term **by Friday 14th September**. For those parents that are paying in instalments, please check your booking spreadsheet for the dates that each instalment has been set up for payment. Thank you for your cooperation.

Uniform reminder...

Any uniform orders placed since the 17th August will be available for collection on the 19th September. Orders can be placed via your Parentpay account if you require any additional uniform items.

Dates coming up in the diary next week...

Monday 10th September- all Foundation children in full time

Tuesday 11th September- Year Six Preparation Test

Thursday 13th September- Year Six Transfer Test

Friday 14th September- Star Assembly (all parents welcome- doors open at 2:30pm, ready for 2:40pm start).

Please note that Foundation children will start to come to Star Assemblies from Friday 28th September so they have time to get used to how assemblies work- thank you!

Our key diary dates for the academic year have been resent with this newsletter. This is the same information that was emailed home in July, yet may be easier to find if sent again!

Think that is all for this week and we look forward to our first full week back starting on Monday.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

Sara J Boyce

Sara Boyce

Headteacher

headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk