



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter/Blog
Friday 16th December 2022
'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever



To all our families

What a busy but wonderful time of year this is in school! I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. I will be sending home a 'mini-newsletter' next week to say a proper goodbye and thank you as Headteacher as I handover to the interim leadership team and take up my new role as HMI. However, for now- here is an update on all the goings on from this week!



Foundation and KS1 Nativities...

Well done to all of our younger pupils who performed so well in our nativities and thank you to all the families who came to watch. The children sang beautifully and with such enthusiasm.

As you know, both Nativities were professionally recorded. **If you wish to receive the link for the online portal giving you access to view and download the Nativity recordings, please pay £5.00 per production via your Parentpay account by Monday 19th December.** The link is password protected. The link and password will be emailed to all parents that have paid on Tuesday 20th December.

We also held our **Foundation and KS1 Christingle Service** in school on Thursday. We could not be at Church as the weather was too icy, however Reverend Waller and the church wardens came to us instead. It is always a magical moment when the Christingles are lit and we sing 'Silent Night'. Thank you to all the parents that came and joined in too!



Thank you to our Kitchen team for our Christmas lunch....

Huge thanks to Michelle, Lizzie and Gemma for cooking nearly 300 Christmas dinners today! WOW! I get stressed cooking for only 5 people, so hats off to the team! The food was amazing and the children loved it. Thank you to HASA helpers too for supporting us serve and tidy up!



Christmas Jumper Day....

Today was also our Christmas Jumper Day and we decided to use it as an opportunity to raise some funds for our school charity, World Vision, and their Christmas campaign. We raised £153.00 so thank you for helping us let our light shine!

'Give a first' this Christmas...

We have been talking in Reflections about giving being more important than receiving at Christmas and the joy in making a difference to someone else. We have done this by thinking of what we could do for others 'to let our light shine for the first time' this Christmas. The children then wrote these down and we hung them as decorations on our school Christmas tree. They include things like, 'I showed my cousin how to put the tree up for the first time', 'I am seeing my grandma after COVID for the first time', 'I have written a card for my elderly neighbour' and 'I have baked a cake and given my pocket money to charity'.



As a school, we have also continued the tradition of making and sending cards to the senior citizens in our area. Thank you to the church wardens for distributing them for us.

Quick final two days Christmas Countdown reminder....

Date and time	Event	Notes
Monday 19 th December	KS2 children please come to school with an orange to make their Christingle	
Monday 19 th December at 1:45pm (will leave school at 1:30pm)	KS2 Carol Concert at St Mary's Church Great Brickhill	
Tuesday 20 th December afternoon	Great Gappo Magician to entertain Foundation and KS1-funded by HASA	
Tuesday 20 th December		Break up from school at normal finish times.



Proud Cup Winners this week...

Well done to Maple Class who won the PROUD Cup this week! You have been great this week at being respectful around school.

Learning highlights this week...

Foundation (Acorns)-

Update from Miss Little, EYFS Leader

We've had some Christmas themed enhancements this week in Acorns Class and have seen such high engagement as a result. The children were fantastic at using their problem solving and maths skills to work out where each of the Numicon pieces go on our mathematical Christmas tree. It was great for me to see that lots of our children can recognise amounts without counting ('subsidising') now - well done Acorns!

We also have loved the snow this week and it has brought with it lots of discussions about melting and freezing, what this means and why it happens. We brought the snow inside and explored paints with the ice. The children used their knowledge of colour mixing from last half term to mix and make different colours.



Year One and Two-

This week we saw some amazing letter writing about de-forestation. Thank you to Dayaar for sharing his with me!

Update from Mrs Wadeson and Mrs Crawley, Phase Leaders

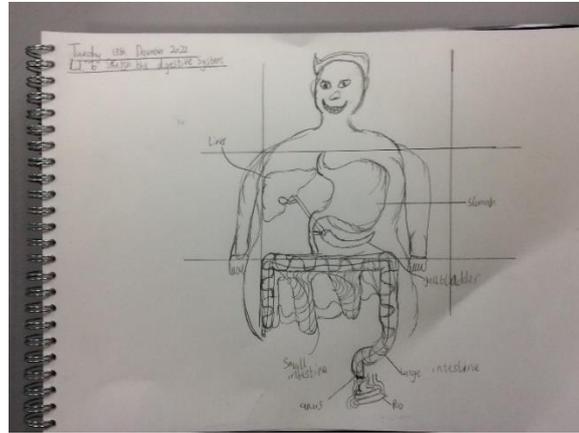
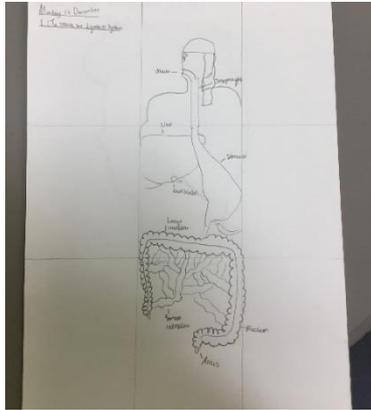
'This week Year 1/2 have been completing their Innovate tasks which involved writing letters and protesting to stop proposed deforestation of Rushmere Park. The children were extremely passionate about the cause and were very keen to take part in their own peaceful protests!'



Year Three and Four

Update from Miss Raval, Phase Leader

'This week in Year Three/Four, we have been busy recording our Innovates. We also focused on our sketching skills by following steps to sketch the digestive system. In our Guided Reading lessons, we have been focusing on inference by looking at a range of festive texts and working out the meaning. We even had a go at writing a letter to a friend about a snowman we created based on the video we had watched in class.'



- ✓ Special mention to Callum Q for his fantastic recall of Science knowledge about teeth in his Innovate work- well done!
- ✓ Darcey W also impressed with her persuasive letter about women and equality in football!
- ✓ I was also very proud of the amazing progress Eve B has made in her writing! Awesome!

Year Five and Six-

Update from Mrs Weatherall, Phase Leader

'This week Year Five and Six have been busy creating their Innovates inspired by Horrible Histories. We have been writing scripts for interviews, news reports, songs and much more. Afterwards, we have performed in front of an audience. We have shown all our understanding of the middle ages from the cures of the Black Death to the reasons behind the Peasants revolt. Willow class have been finishing and evaluating each other's castles in DT. On Thursday, Year 6 went to Water Eaton Church Centre for Christmas Cracked. We spent the morning learning about the Christmas story, making mince pies and playing Christmas charades. All children were super representatives of the school.'

- ✓ Well done to Lottie and Sophie for their determination to improve in Maths to solve a '12 Days of Christmas' puzzle.
- ✓





Staying safe outdoors in icy weather...



As you will be aware, the tragic loss of the lives of four children in Solihull has sharply highlighted the need to know about, and be alert to safety around frozen water. Please do take a look at this website where you will find activities and good advice to support children to keep safe, and what they should do if they see someone in difficulty in frozen water.

[https://www. rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety](https://www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety)

HASA Raffle...

Thank you to all the parents who have bought tickets and helped to raise already over £800 for the school! Well done to the three lucky winners who have been informed of their success.

Hope you all have a good weekend and see you Monday for the last 2 days of term!

Sara J Boyce

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