



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter/Blog

Friday 7th October 2022



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families

I am so lucky as the Headteacher to get to see so much amazing learning all across our school. This week I have enjoyed as much as ever being in classrooms and talking to pupils.

My Headteacher highlights this week have been...

- Seeing the awe and wonder in Foundation (Acorns) when seeing how mixing primary colours made new colours
- Observing really great Phonics sessions in Foundation and Key Stage One
- Watching the faces of KS1 children as they realised how different life was in a Victorian school during their Victorian Day this week
- Talking to groups of Year Three/Four children who could tell me all about their History and Geography learning so far this term and remembering what they had covered in KS1 to help them
- Chatting to Year Five and Six all about their Science lessons and how their knowledge has built up over this topic, yet seeing them also apply learning from when they were in Year Three and Four as well
- Hearing the pupils using all the 'Star Word' vocabulary accurately and a really good discussion in Year Three and Four about dynasty and legacies linked to their work on Ancient Egypt
- Being very proud of every single one of Year Six who all got the chance to be a tour guide at our Open Morning on Thursday

Read further on in this newsletter about more learning highlights from each year group!

What is coming up in the next couple of weeks with our curriculum?

As you know from the Curriculum Overviews we send home at the start of each half term, next week Years One to Six will complete their 'Innovates'. This is when they apply all of their learning from their topic to secure their knowledge and make connections with other bits of learning.

Year Five and Six are acting as alchemists to use all the scientific processes they have learnt about to separate an alchemist's potions. Year Three and Four are creating their own Pharaoh and tomb using what they have learnt about significance and legacy of these Ancient Egyptians. In Year One and Two they are recreating life in a Victorian School as a follow up to their role play day this week and comparing it to school life today.

In the final week before half term...

In the week before half term we are applying our knowledge even more.

Year Five and Six will be looking at the concept of monarchy and having now studied several monarchs across history, consider questions such as 'How has the monarchy changed over time?' and discussing the role of monarchy in modern Britain.

Year Three and Four will be answering the question, 'What was significant about the Stone Age' and linking it in to their chronological understanding of times in history.

Year One and Two are immersing themselves in RE to look at the meanings of symbols and visiting our local church.

Foundation will be developing their knowledge of their world around them and Science through the story of 'Funny Bones' - they will be learning all about their skeletons and also putting on a puppet show!

Latest data update...

We were already pleased with our Y6 SATS results in July 2022 and with how we were above national averages.

We are now also delighted with the **latest Y2 SATS** comparisons between our school and the national picture which has just been released this week. It relates to our current Y3 children and shows that we have worked hard to minimise the impact of COVID on our pupils. We will never rest on our laurels, yet it does show we are on the right tracks with our plans and provision.

Assessment	School % meeting expected standard	National % meeting expected standard	School % above expected standard	National % above expected standard
Reading Y2 2022 SATS	80%	67%	28%	18%
Writing Y2 2022	73%	58%	16%	8%
Maths Y2 2022 SATS	78%	68%	18%	15%

Please note our results were also externally moderated by Buckinghamshire LA.

In further good news our Year One phonics results (so our current Year Twos) were 83% compared to 75% nationally.

Onwards and upwards!

Harvest Festival next week...

There are two main reminders for next week.

1. Our Year Three/Four children have all had a part in planning our Harvest Festival and some will be sharing this as part of the **Harvest Church Service on Wednesday 12th October at 1:45pm.**

If any Years Three/Four parents wish to join us at the service, please make sure you book you attendance online by clicking on the following link if not already booked:
<https://highash.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

We do also require parent volunteers to help walk the children to and from the church. If you can help, please email the office. Thank you.

2. We are asking for **food donations** for our local Food Bank- please bring in donations to school next week and we can display them in the hall to show we are living our vision and theme of 'Reach Out'.



Reflection Leaders...

Due to the huge number of children wishing to be Reflection Leaders, we have decided to change how we manage this this year.

So, the children have elected four Reflection Leaders from Year Five/Six who help me oversee, plan and lead Reflections across the whole year and they are Alby, Eliza, Emilia and Theo.

In addition, each class in the school will then take it in turns across the year to help deliver our Reflections so that everyone gets a chance to be a Reflection Leader if they wish.

That is why next week, Year Three and Four classes have planned and will be leading the Harvest Festival service themselves. We have all been impressed with their rehearsals.

It has been so lovely to hear all the classes across the school practising the hymns for Harvest this week. The singing in Key Stage Two's singing reflection was fantastic and made me feel proud to be part of High Ash. I am really looking forward to joining the children at the Harvest service in church next week. Mrs Burrows, Assistant Headteacher

I am just thrilled so many children want to be Reflection Leaders and take part in helping us celebrate and share our vision and values- we really do like to let our light shine!

Parent Forum feedback...

Thank you to all the parents who came to the Parent Forum this week and for sharing views and input into school life.

In terms of actions from the meeting we have done the following:

- Sent home paper copies of KS2 spellings as well as emailing them home to ensure all families have a copy for easy reference
- Reminded parents that we teach a spelling rule each week in KS2 yet there are still example spellings that can be practised at home
- Fed back to staff feedback regarding homework
- Set up a **parent workshop for Year Three/ Four parents** to focus on the move from KS1 to KS2- this will be on **Wednesday 2nd November** (more details to follow at Parents' Evening).

Parents' Evenings next week...

We are looking forward to seeing you in school next week for Parents' Evenings! Please arrive via the main entrance and we will signpost you where you will need to go.

The online booking is now closed. If you have not managed to book your appointment, please call the office to book the next available time slot for you. However, if you are unable to attend either of the parents evening dates provided, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative date.

What have the other learning highlights been this week?

Foundation (Acorns)

Update from Miss Little, EYFS Leader

This week we have been reading the story of 'The Colour Monster' and thinking about our feelings. We have been using our own feeling jars and putting pompoms inside depending on how we felt. We understand that our feelings change throughout the day so we visited the jars a few times each day. We have also been exploring colour mixing and learning about what primary colours we can mix together to create new colours. Some of us then extended this by exploring how we can then make the colours lighter or darker using black and white. We have also begun reading green words in Phonics lessons and have been having a go at reading (and even writing) some words of our own!



Year One/Two-

Update from Mrs Wadeson and Mrs Crawley (Year One/Two Phase Leaders)

We had a fantastic time this week experiencing a Victorian school day. We started the day with the 3R's (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) and made sure our handwriting was perfect! We then did some observational drawing and used the techniques we had learnt in art this term, to add colour to our drawings. We enjoyed learning about the history of the Victoria Sandwich cake and had a go at baking our own. We joined in with a drill lesson and compared this to the PE we do today and finished off the day with boys and girls being separated, with girls doing needlework and boys doing woodwork. We all had a wonderful day and it really brought our learning to life and children were able to experience some elements of what the day would have been like! Luckily we all escaped the cane!!



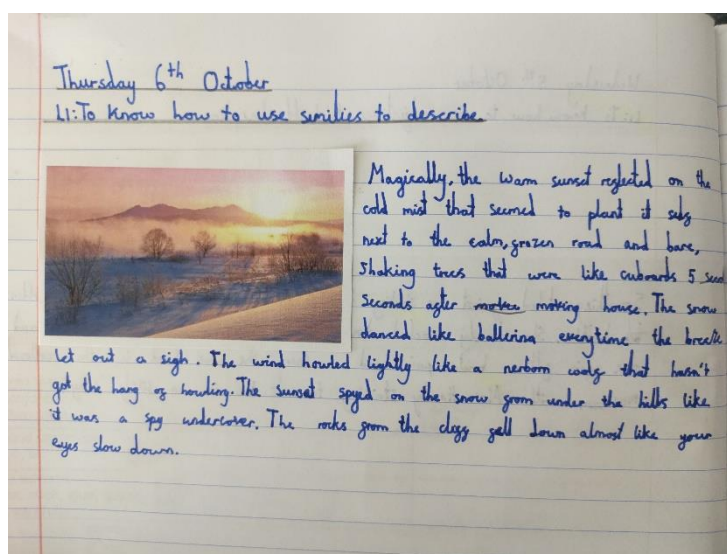
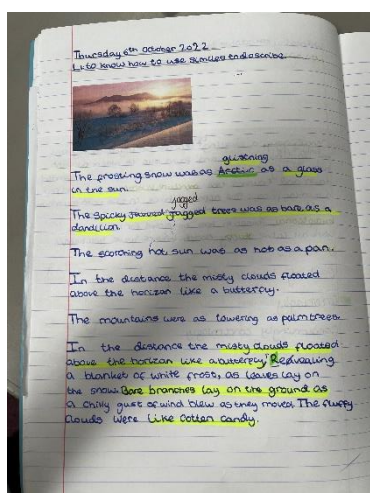


Well done to Chestnut Class for their super sharing assembly to parents today as well!

Year Three and Four

Update from Miss Raval (Year Three/Four Leader)

This week we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the tombs of Egypt through Google Earth. We were amazed with the sheer amount of artwork within the tombs and looked carefully at the designs and the colours which were used. We then created our own Egyptian art by focusing on ensuring the heads and faces of the people we drew were sideways and the shoulders were forward facing. We also chose 6 colours, similar to the Egyptians that we wanted in our artwork. In Geography, we discovered how Milton Keynes had changed overtime by researching a range of questions using the iPads. In English, we were so excited to start our new story, 'The Time Slip Scarab'. We structured the story back together and explored the vocabulary and similes in the text.



Year Five and Six

Update from Mrs Weatherall, Year Five/Six Phase Leader

This week, Year 5/6 have been continuing work on The Tempest by William Shakespeare. We have been summarising the story in a range of ways from songs and raps to comic strips. In RE, we have looked at the importance of the five pillars of Islam.

As for our Science topic, this week we have started our Innovate which involves separating a mystery mixture incorporating our knowledge from this half term. Maple Class used a range of techniques from filtering, sieving and using magnets to separate the ingredients.



This week in Roving Reporter...

we have been asking students about their favourite assembly. Archie and Zach both love singing assembly on a Wednesday and at the moment their favourite song is the Harvest Song. Connie likes Star Assembly because she likes seeing her friends receive awards. From Yr3/4, Emma also enjoys Star Assembly because it makes her feel happy that people are recognised for doing good deeds. James from Year 3/4 likes 'Time to Share' on Thursdays and Christopher likes 'Time to Be' on Mondays when we think about serious matters affecting the world. Cody and Evie from Year 5/6 both like singing assemblies and their favourite song at the moment is 'Autumn Days', and like James, Mollie enjoys 'Time to Share' because she likes hearing what other people think. It's good we all find something different to enjoy!

Diary dates coming up....

Tuesday 11th October, 3.30-6.00pm - Parents Evening

Wednesday 12th October @ 1.45pm - Year 3/4 Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church (leaving school at 1.30pm)

Wednesday 13th October, 5.00-7.30pm - Oak Class Parents Evening

Thursday 13th October, 5.00-7.30pm - Parents Evening

Thursday 13th October - Whole School Flu vaccinations

Friday 14th October @ 2.45pm - KS2 Star Assembly (doors open at 2.30pm). Please book online.

Friday 14th October @ 3.45pm - Football Fixture v Swanbourne School (Away) at Mursley Playing Fields.

Friday 14th October - Year 6 Transfer Test results published

Have a great weekend!

Sara J Boyce

Mrs. Sara Boyce

Headteacher

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