



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



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

This week we have managed to balance the sad news about the Queen with also carrying on with our lessons and learning. This newsletter will share with you some of the highlights from paying our respects to the Queen and also from lessons this week.

Commemorating Queen Elizabeth II...

On Monday we held a special Reflection to remember the Queen, share our thoughts about her life and share prayers. We also had a prayer read to us via video link by the Archbishop of Canterbury and we listened and reflected to music by Elgar ('Nimrod') and then we all sang the National Anthem. I have been so impressed with how maturely and respectfully the children have responded to this news and have written some very touching comments about her late Majesty.

We are having a Book of Condolence in school and all the children have contributed to this and we will have this book completed next week.

In addition, we have requested to make a contribution of some of our children's thoughts to a county wide Book of Condolences that will represent other primary schools as well. We felt it was important to mark this historic event and to also pay our respects to someone who really did personify our school vision of letting their light shine.

On Thursday in Reflection, we then shared some of the children's thoughts and we read a story and poem about remembering people we care about.

School will be closed on Monday 19th September for the Bank Holiday so that families can spend the time together on what will be quite a day in our nation's history.

Learning highlights this week...

As you know, I enjoy spending time with the children and sharing in their learning and this week I have been around the school seeing how they are settling in and looking at how they are getting on with their new topics.

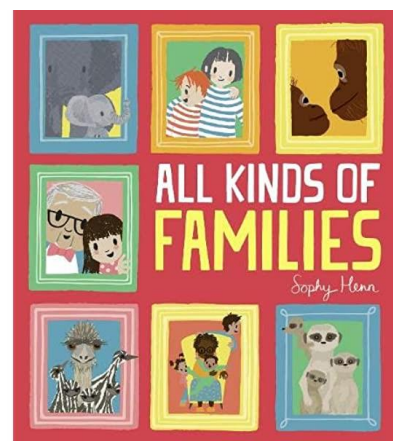
Foundation (Acorns)- This has been Foundation's first full week in school and they have been absolutely fantastic! I cannot believe this is only Week 2 as they are already working well, know the expectations and are loving their new topic. Miss Little is also working hard to complete all of their baseline assessments and then next week we start with Phonics sessions too.

It is worth reminding Foundation parents that we have **our Reading/Phonics/Maths and Curriculum Information sessions on Wednesday 28th September at 9am and then repeated at 6pm**. These sessions will help to clarify what your children are learning, how Phonics is taught, how we teach reading and maths and what you can do at home to help. There is an expectation that all parents will attend. To book your preferred time, please click on the link below:

<https://highash.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Update from Miss Little...

Our focus text this week is 'All Kinds of Families' which is a wonderful book about the different types of families we have in our diverse world. The children have been thinking about the people in their own families, drawing pictures of our families and some of us have had a go at labelling them too. In the small world area, we have extended this by creating the towns and villages where we live. We have been making Great Brickhill and thinking about where our homes are in the local area. Special mention to Roman this week who has been working hard to order his numbers to 10 and accurately count out amounts. Well done, Roman!



Little ones who find themselves
without a family can be adopted . . .



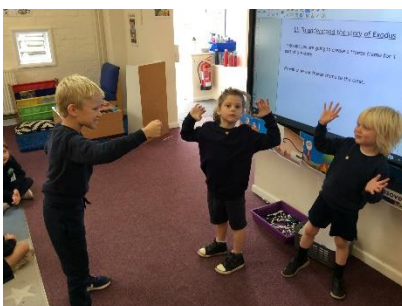
This family has two daddies . . .
every so often two male cheetahs will
adopt a lost cub and raise them as their own.

Year One and Two-

The children started in their Maths and English groups this week and we have already started Phonics too!

Here are updates from Mrs Crawley and Mrs Wadesdon (Year One/Two Leaders) about this week:

In RE, we learnt about the story of the Exodus and thought why it was an important story from the Torah. We retold the story and freeze framed the most important parts. We thought about what the key messages from the story were and why Moses was a good leader.



In Year 1/2 this week we have also been exploring the differences between Victorian classrooms in the past to present day. We looked at different artefacts you would have found in a classroom and

we discussed what we thought they were used for. Items included a slate, an old satchel, a pencil case and the cane!

We have been looking at scenes from Victorian England and developing our sentence writing skills by writing descriptive sentences. We have been thinking about our punctuation, adjectives and whether they make sense. We have been really impressed with all the children's efforts.



Year Three and Four-

Here is the update from Miss Raval (Year Three/Four Leader)

Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed a great week of learning. They have been developing their writing skills by improving a text about a Pharaoh. The children enjoyed learning new vocabulary to up-level the text to make it more interesting for the reader. During Maths, they have been developing their understanding of place value, this has been done through base 10 and problem solving. As part of their topic work, they have understood the term 'dynasty' and organised the dynasties into the three kingdoms of Ancient Egypt.

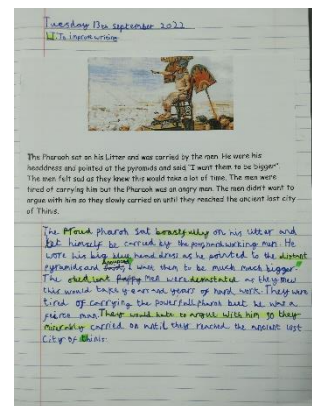
As Headteacher, I enjoyed talking to Jacob R-A, Thomas S, James S and Eve B about their Maths learning and they could tell me all about what they had been learning about place value- well done!

Mrs Burrows (Assistant Head) was also very proud of Year Three /Four.

Here is what she had to say.

'I have been really impressed with Hawthorn Class and how much knowledge they have shown on Pharaohs and dynasties while learning about Ancient Egypt. The whole class demonstrated great listening skills and a determination to improve their work. I look forward to seeing their 'Innovate' at the end of this topic!'

We also started a Reading Challenge in KS2 this week where the children have a book mark with 16 stars on it. Every time they read a book, they mark off a star. After every 4 books read they get a Headteacher sticker and after reading all 16 books they get a treat from the Treat Box! We are monitoring this carefully for fairness! Well done to Demi, Tatiana and to Callum who are making good progress and already have a sticker!



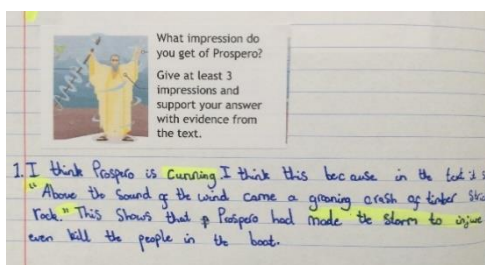
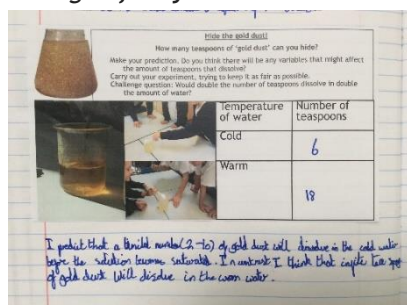
Year Five and Six-

Before we get to the update from Mrs Weatherall (Year Five/Six Leader), I would like to give a special mention to the following children whom I have seen for good work this week and have had Gold Stars.

- ✓ Ben L and Iris- for amazing story writing with great vocabulary and phrasing
- ✓ Luca B, Iris, Evie, Isobel, Lottie, Ruby, Amelie C, Amelie H, Anisha and Gianna for their Geography work on 4 figure grid references
- ✓ Fleur L and Eliza G for their place value work in Maths and applying their knowledge to problem solving

Here is the update from Mrs Weatherall (Year Five/Six Leader):

This week in Year Five and Six we have started reading our Guided Reading text 'The Tempest' and written about initial impressions of the principal character, Prospero. In Geography, we have learnt about contour lines and how they show elevation above sea level and we made our own topographic models. In Science, we have learnt about solutions. We have experimented with the solubility of sugar in water and recorded our results in a range of ways.



Star Assemblies...

Today we have our first Star Assembly of this year, starting with KS2. As you will see from the diary dates that we have sent home, all our Star Assemblies are listed on there for the year so please check if you have not done so already.

Each week, the class teacher chooses a child who has been a 'Star' and followed an element of the PROUD principles. We also have a 'Good Samaritan' certificate for someone in each class too. If the children get a Star Award they get a treat from the much loved Treat Box. For a Good Samaritan award each child gets a purple wrist band to wear in school.

In order to maintain an element of surprise, we only choose who is getting a certificate on a Friday morning- this means we can use a whole week of learning to make our decision from.

Parents are welcome to attend Star Assemblies and as every child will get at least one Star Award a year, then there is a good chance if you are able to come regularly that you will be there when your child gets one. If not, we do take a photo so you do not miss out!

Foundation parents please note that Acorns will start coming to Star Assemblies from after half term.

KS1 Star Assembly will take place next week, Friday 23rd September @ 2.45pm with doors opening at 2.30pm. To book your seat, please click on the link below:

<https://highash.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

***Online bookings will go live tonight at 7pm.**

Roving Reporter...

Some new teachers have joined our school this year so this week we have been asking people what it's like getting to know these new faces. Eliza has been helping me with Roving Reporter this week and that's something else new too.

Cedar class has Mrs Boyd. Sophia said she is really interesting and fun and Charlie thinks Mrs Boyd makes phonics exciting. Miss Nunn is now the teacher in Hazel class. Josephine said Miss Nunn's lessons were really interesting and she particularly enjoyed English and History. Hawthorn class were excited to meet Miss Maylor. Roman told me that Miss Maylor was very kind and he liked her Science lessons and reading stories with Miss Maylor at the end of the day. Miss Raval is the new teacher in Holly class. Phoebe thinks her lessons are very interesting and that Miss Raval looks happy to be their teacher. Finally, Miss Whitehead has joined Year 5/6 in Willow class. Samina and Beau both said that they thought Miss Whitehead was a lovely teacher and liked her Science and English lessons the most. But we can't forget the existing teachers - we think they're all fab too!

Baby news...

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Underwood (one of our Assistant Heads) has had her baby! A little later than planned, Mrs Underwood gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on Monday this week. Mum and baby are both doing well and I am sure that Mrs Underwood will be visiting us as soon as she can.



HASA update from Vicki Hardy, HASA Chair...

A big welcome back to school from HASA, hoping you all had a fantastic summer break.

HASA has already got its first date to meet arranged so it's all systems go with us. We're looking forward to hosting a years' worth of fun activities with the aim of raising funds to support the school in their mission, as always, to give the children of High Ash a wonderful primary school education.

HASA are always extremely eager to have new members join the committee in whatever capacity they can. If you feel you would like to contribute some hours over the year to supporting our fund raising efforts then please do contact us on:-

highashschoolassociation@gmail.com

Please keep a look out for upcoming events!

*Warm wishes
The HASA Team*

Diary dates coming up....

Monday 19th September - Bank Holiday (School Closed)

Wednesday 21st September 9am and 6pm - Headteacher presentation to parents - **Please confirm your attendance by booking online**

Friday 23rd September 2pm (doors open at 1.50pm) - Maple Class Assembly - Parents welcome, no need to book

Friday 23rd September 2.45pm (doors open at 2.30pm) - KS1 Star Assembly - **Please book a seat online.**

See you all back in school on Tuesday.

Sara J Boyce

Mrs. Sara Boyce
Headteacher
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