



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter/Blog

Friday 9th September 2022

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,
Here we are at the end of our first full week back at school and it only seems five minutes ago we emailed home our Welcome Back letter on Monday!

It has been a really positive and successful start back at school after the long summer break and the fact that this is the second year we are back in full time after COVID is really showing how well the children have settled already. They are well versed in our routines and expectations- having last year without interruptions has really benefited everyone!

The staff team, including our new teachers, have also quickly got back up and running and this week the children have had a key focus on PHSE and also on launching their Topics with their Hook Days. Both myself and the senior leaders (Mrs Goodger and Mrs Burrows) have been doing lots of popping into lessons to see learning in action and the children have enjoyed sharing their new knowledge with us.

So, what is being taught this term?

This week you will have been emailed home the [Curriculum Overviews](#) for each year group which shows what is being covered in every subject this half term.

Children in Acorns (Foundation) will have their overviews emailed home on Monday next week when they start full time.

Each week our newsletter then highlights key bits of learning from every year group and lets you know what we have been busy finding out about in school.

Learning highlights this week...

Foundation (Acorns)-

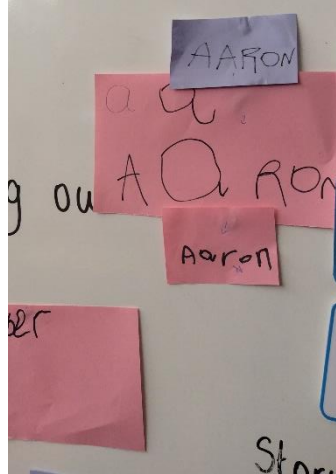
This week we welcomed our new Foundation children and I have had the pleasure of meeting and chatting to all of them!

The children have had a phased start to ensure they get used to where everything is and to explore the learning areas and become familiar with school routines.

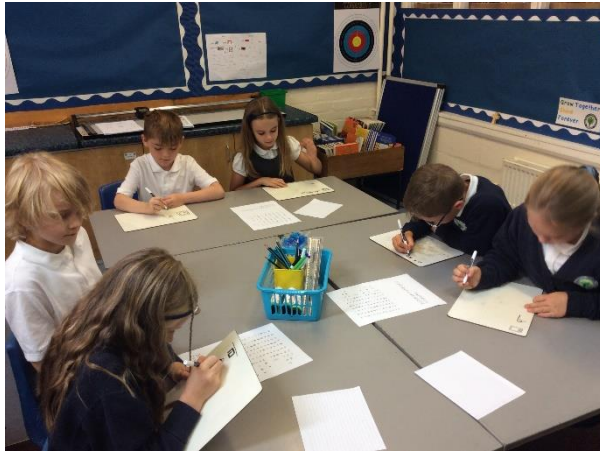
Miss Little and the team have worked hard over the Summer to update the outdoor learning area and we love our new play sheds!



What a great first week we have had in Foundation! We have been settling into our classroom, learning where all of our new resources are and learning each other's names. The children were really keen to show us how well they can write their names and it has been lovely to see how eager



The Year3/4 children have made a positive start to the term. They began the week by recapping the terms 'adjectives' and 'nouns' to describe themselves through a describing bubble. During their Maths work, they have been busy partitioning 2,3 and 4 digit numbers and recombining them, as well as developing their knowledge of times tables. A key highlight of the week was their Ancient Egyptian Hook Day, where the children understood the process of mummification and performed this themselves using an orange. Finally, they enjoyed learning how to write their names in hieroglyphics on papyrus paper.



Well done to all of the Year Three/Four children who have been to see me this week for Headteacher stickers for showing amazing behaviours for learning. I am super proud!

Year Five and Six

A key highlight of the week for me was seeing how much the children enjoyed their Hook Day. The children have also started to get used to their new Year Six roles such as finding out when they will be an Ambassador in Star Assembly, helping with the computer in assembly and being a librarian. We are still allocating jobs so there is more to come!

Update from Mrs Weatherall (Year Five/Six Leader)...

Year 5/6 had a magical 'Hook Day' discovering their new topic Alchemy Island! We became alchemists for the day and experimented by adding mentos to coke and mixing bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. It was amazing to see how the reaction created carbon dioxide to make the bag expand and sent the diet coke flying out of the top of the bottle! We also looked at symbols of alchemists and created our own using simple shapes before writing poems about things we would find in a magic box.





Update from Mrs Goodger, Deputy Headteacher...

This week Mrs Goodger has been really proud of how hard working, thoughtful and reflective Willow class have been during their PSHE work. A special mention has to go to Ben N who has been demonstrating the P, R and D in our PROUD principles - being polite, respectful and determined to improve in his work. A great start to the year!

Year Six Transfer Test...

Next week some Year Six children will be sitting the Transfer Test for grammar school. If you wish your child to be withdrawn from this, please remember you need to confirm this in writing to me via email. Good luck to those who are taking part.

Clubs...

It has been great to see our clubs start up again this week and we have a good offer of sports, drama and music on offer.

Some of our clubs (such as Year 6 football) will start later this term.

Message from Commando Pete, our Character Development programme leader

Hi All,

It's absolutely fantastic to be here for another year. I am really excited for the year ahead.

Commando Joes is the largest provider of Character education in the UK. "No child left behind" is our founding ethos and while we all agree that academic achievement is very important, we believe that the development and promotion of a positive growth mindset is the key to success beyond the classroom.

We utilise the expertise of former service personnel to deliver fun, practical and exciting tasks based around our RESPECT framework. We focus on teaching specific character traits and use inspirational characters, both past and present, as a tool to facilitate discussion.

This term, the Year 3 and 4 children will be following Levison Wood, an author, explorer and photographer. Levison Wood is best known for his expeditions along the River Nile and the Himalayas. The Year 5 and 6 children will be following Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the world's greatest living explorer who is best known for being the only person ever to circumnavigate the globe along its polar axis.

If you have any questions about the Commando Joes programme, please feel free to approach me on the playground at the beginning and end of the day every Wednesday.

Reflections....

The children have been sharing with me what Reflections mean to them and I have been really touched and encouraged by their thoughts and comments.

'Reflections matter to me because I can be heard and hear the thoughts of others. I feel part of a community that sings and celebrates together. I am included' - Blythe

'We come together and think about and discuss things that matter' - Ariyah

'Reflections matter to me because it means you have a chance to calm yourself and reflect what Jesus and God went through'

'Reflections matter because it helps me care about others in the world' - Charlotte

'Reflections matter because it is a time to come together and I like hearing the bible stories and being a Good Samaritan' - Cali C

Next week our Reflections will be based around remembering Queen Elizabeth and taking time for children to share their thoughts.

MP letters...

You may remember that at the end of last term as part of our '#bethechange' campaign, some of our Key Stage Two children wrote to our MP about their concerns linked to the environment, promoting electric vehicles and plastic pollution.

Our MP, Greg Smith, has written back to all pupils and they were very proud to have got a reply and showed that they could be advocates for change. This is in line with our school vision of letting our light shine.

Vacancies at our school...

We are currently advertising for two positions at our school.

- **Family Liaison/Office Administrator**- this position has arisen as Mrs Pippa White is moving on to take up a new role in the private sector as she returns to her former career in marketing now her children are older. We really will miss Pippa and wish her all the very best- she will still be in school though with Charlie Dog. The position we are looking to fill is full time ideally, although we would discuss part time, and involves responsibility for attendance and SEND administration. If you are interested or know someone who may be, then please contact our School Business Manager at businessmanager@highashschool.co.uk
- **Cleaner**- due to one of our cleaners moving to another role in school we now have a cleaner vacancy for a minimum of 12 hours a week. Again if you are interested or you know someone who is, then please also email businessmanager@highashschool.co.uk

It definitely has been a busy week! Here are some reminders of diary dates coming up in the next couple of weeks...

Tuesday 13th September - Year 6 Preparation Transfer Test

Thursday 15th September - Year 6 Transfer Test

Friday 16th September - KS2 Star Assembly @ 2.45pm (Doors open at 2.30pm - parents welcome)

Wednesday 21st September @ 9am and 6pm - Headteacher Presentation to Parents. All parents are expected to attend one of the session.

Friday 23rd September - Maple Class Assembly @ 2.00pm (Doors open at 1.50pm - parents welcome)

Friday 23rd September - KS1 Star Assembly @ 2.45pm (Doors open at 2.30pm - parents welcome)

Have a great weekend!

Sara J Boyce

Mrs. Sara Boyce

Headteacher

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