



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter/Blog

Friday 10th December 2021

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families

Advent is definitely being celebrated at High Ash as this week we have been lighting our Advent candles, writing prayers of hope and watching the wonderful Nativities performed by Foundation and Key Stage One! There is a lot in this newsletter this week so do please keep reading!

Nativities...

I am delighted that our risk assessment allowed us to still have our Nativity performances to parents this week and it was a really special shared moment between home and school.

Well done to all of the children who performed so well. Every single child had the chance to perform on the stage which really matters to us. Thank you also to the teaching team who ensured the children were able to perform at their very best!



As you know, we had the performances professionally recorded. If you wish to receive the link to this portal and the password to access the file, **please pay the cost of £5.00 per production recording via your ParentPay account by Tuesday 14th December selecting the following payment items:**

Foundation Nativity Recording and or KS1 Nativity Recording

The portal is a place where you can access the film and download for archiving in a far superior quality than anything we have previously experienced with Creative One.

All parents that have signed up to receive the link and password to access the file will be able to enjoy watching the performance on-line by the end of next week.

Reflections and Tree....

This term we have been looking at caring for creation whilst also looking at being advocates for change in response to the international refugee crisis. In our campaign to raise awareness of both these issues, we have decorated our tree in prayers and reflections for refugees and then we have ensured these decorations are also recyclable.





The prayers are really heartfelt and I am proud of the children showing compassion and care for others. I am also proud that as a school we educate our children about these complex issues and do not shy away from discussing them.

We are hoping that the decorations will also be in Church over the festive season for the wider community to share and bring attention to this cause.

Christmas Tree at Stoke Hammond Church...

Many thanks to Key Stage One who have taken part in decorating a Christmas Tree for St Luke's Church in Stoke Hammond. A special thank you to Mrs Wadeson who took the time to set up the tree at the church after school this week.

It is St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th. The church is open for visitors and there is a prize for the best dressed tree. The theme is children's songs and poems, so we have chosen 'Twas The Night Before Christmas' poem.

I am sure you will agree the tree looks amazing and certainly would be great if you are able to pop into the Church this weekend and see it for yourself.



Letting our light shine...

Thank you to everyone for supporting our campaign for refugees and also the #onemorecard campaign.

Update from Lottie, our Roving Reporter...

This week I have been asking people how they have been letting their light shine, in and outside of school. Finley in Year 5/6, Owen in Year 3/4 and Emilia in Year 1/2 say they always try to help people if they are sad or hurt and Varsha in Year 5/6 has been calling her Grandparents everyday so they don't feel lonely. It's not just people we're helping - a lot of us seem to be looking after our environment too. Isla in Year 5/6 says tidying the library at school is her way of letting her light shine. Jack in Year 1/2 and Jamie in Year 3/4 make sure they pick up litter and Alatheia in Foundation makes sure she recycles plastic. Wow - our light is definitely shining bright!

Parent Forum and feedback...

Many thanks to the parents who attended the Parent Forums this week and having a mix of face to face and also via Zoom was well received.

At the meeting, we discussed how we can continue to reach out and involve parents in school life as this format has been really successful over the years.

It was agreed that we would continue to offer this audience with myself every half term, yet also look at setting up (post COVID) a rolling programme of parent workshops linked to curriculum areas, to supporting your child at home, to SEN and well-being updates, so I will look to add these to the diary dates when we send these out in January.

Learning Highlights from around the school...

Foundation and Key Stage One-

It would be fair to say that the main highlights for these classes this week has been the Nativity and we know how brilliantly they all did in that! Year Two children have also been completing national phonics assessments and I am very proud that even having dealt with COVID and lockdowns that we

have 93% of our children at the standard we would expect them to be at nationally which is really great news!

I have seen super work from Riley and Daisy in Maths this week with their work on multiplication facts- well done!

Year Three and Four-

Well done to the following children for great work this week:

- ✓ Alby, Jacob and Ruby for their recall of times table facts
- ✓ Cerys, Elliot and Eliza who did some super narrative writing this week
- ✓ Henry for great effort with his handwriting
- ✓ Jerrold for using similes well in his writing

I have also been so impressed with the children's Science knowledge and their understanding of magnets- thank you to Malachi, Darcey, Edward, Isabelle and Harrison for sharing their Innovates with me!

Commando Joe has also told me that he is very proud of his Year Three/Four groups and their teamwork- well done to Hayden and Alfie who get a special mention from him this week!

Year Five and Six-



Year Six went to Christmas Cracked on Wednesday morning. The children played many games and completed activities to further understand the true meaning of Christmas to Christians.

Sophia - "We liked that it was one activity to the next with no stopping and all of the games were really fun!"

Lucy - "I loved it because we got to spend time together and we got to do what we wanted for the baking."

Amaya - "I really liked making the tops for the mince pies as we got to decorate them."

Bryce - "Charades was fun and I liked filling in our booklets."

Well done to Isobel, Beau, Libby and Jake M for their explanation of what threats Antarctica faces and why it needs to be a protected area- they clearly have learnt a lot in this topic area.

Christmas Countdown reminders for next week...

Date and time	Event	Notes
Monday 13 th December	Foundation and Key Stage One Please bring in an orange to make your Christingle!	
Tuesday 14 th December 1:45pm	Foundation and KS1 Christingle Service at Church	Parents who have booked to attend only due to church capacity limits re COVID. Thank you.
Wednesday 15 th December	All of KS2 children Please bring in an orange to make your Christingle!	
Thursday 16 th December Afternoon	'Great Gappo' Children's Entertainer for Fdn and KS1	This is funded by HASA- thank you!
Thursday 16 th December 1:45pm	KS2 Carol Concert at Church	Parents who have booked to attend only due to church capacity limits re COVID. Thank you.
Friday 17 th December Morning	Christmas Fair in school to raise money for World Vision's Refugee appeal.	Each child to bring in £2 if possible to spend at the fair with all money going to this Charity

Mrs Burrows' baby news....

We are delighted to inform you that last week, Mrs Burrows (Assistant Headteacher) gave birth to a beautiful baby boy! Mum and baby Jude are doing well and we can't wait to meet him in the new year!



Other staffing news...

- ✓ Mrs Walker is home completing her recovery and we continue to wish her well. She may well still need more time to recuperate which we understand, yet I know she will be keen to get back to work as soon as she feels able to do so.
- ✓ Miss Danks is leaving us at Christmas for personal reasons and we wish her the very best and thank her for her work in the time she has been with us. As Cedar parents know, Mrs Goodger will be taking over as Cedar Class Teacher in January.
- ✓ We also wish Ms Harrison (TA in KS1) well as she is returning to her old school after the Christmas break.
- ✓ Finally, we welcomed Mrs Barton to our school this week who has joined our school cleaning team.
- ✓ We are in the process of advertising for a Teaching Assistant so if you know of anyone who may be interested then if you contact the office they can provide you with the job description and person specification. All of our recruitment follows safeguarding protocols.

COVID update....

As the Government have moved to Plan B, the advice for schools pretty much remains the same. Bucks Public Health are requesting that staff in primary schools wear masks in communal areas which we will do, although we do not need to wear them with the children.

We also have been advised to limit visitors in school. Our plan is for the Church Services to go ahead next week as we have already risk assessed, however we may need to change this next week should

case numbers increase to 5 or more in one class, or 10% of a key stage are affected. We hope this is not the case, yet as you can understand we are keeping this under constant review. We have 8 cases in school currently and they are spread fairly evenly across year groups.

Parents have been so supportive of us and our measures, so we ask that this continues to be the case. If your child is unwell, please do not send to school and get a PCR test. If a household member tests positive, the whole household needs a PCR test. If you are informed by NHS Test and Trace that you have the Omicron variant, they will advise you on what to do next.

HASA update...

What a busy week for HASA's team - two Parent Forums, five sets of Nativity refreshments, helping serve and clear hundreds of Christmas dinners, then finishing the week with the ever-popular Treat Friday stall! Thanks to Waterdene Foods and Tesco Bletchley, who have donated some of the refreshments enjoyed by everyone.

We are delighted that a few new faces have offered to become volunteers for HASA following the Parent Forum talks. This gives us extra support to run events in future without asking for the commitment of joining the Committee. You can get in touch at highashschoolassociation@gmail.com if you could help us out in any way during 2022.

There is now less than a week until the Christmas Raffle is drawn, our hampers are looking lovely and we hope the lucky recipients enjoy their prizes - but you have to be in it to win it! Please do return all ticket stubs and monies at the start of next week in order for them to be in the draw - good luck and thank you to everyone who has taken part as all profits go directly back to helping provide resources for the school.

That is all for this week. It has been another busy one! We like being busy here though as you know. I really can't believe that two weeks today is Christmas Eve.....eek!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Sara J Boyce

Mrs. Sara Boyce
Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk