



High Ash CE School



Weekly Newsletter/Blog



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

*'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16*



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

Welcome to December and Advent as we officially countdown to Christmas! I do hope you found the Christmas planner that I sent home in last week's newsletter useful and do keep referring to it.

***Christmas Tree Walk and outdoor Advent Services....***

Today, after a break of a couple of years due to storms and then COVID19, our annual Christmas Tree Walk returned! This is a lovely community event to mark the start of Advent at our school and many thanks to Alders Fisheries for the donation of the tree.

This morning, our KS2 children and parents walked to the woods to then have an outdoor Advent Service, carols and prayers led by the children before we then had the tree brought back to school to decorate.

This year, in line with our Christmas Appeal, we will be decorating it with orange love hearts and stars with our messages and prayers of support for children who are refugees and as a way of raising awareness for our support of our charity World Vision.

Here are some photos from this morning's walk and service.... (spot the sheep in the background!)





Then this afternoon, Foundation and Key Stage One held their Advent Service on the school field. This also involved planting a new tree in part to replace the one we have had cut down as the Christmas Tree and in part due to having a tree to plant in early celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Thank you to Maggie, Wilf, James, Frankie and Florence for being our tree planters!



It was wonderful to have parents attend these events and thank you to all parents for following our COVID protocols, although the main protective factor was being outside.

#### **Nativity Updates...**

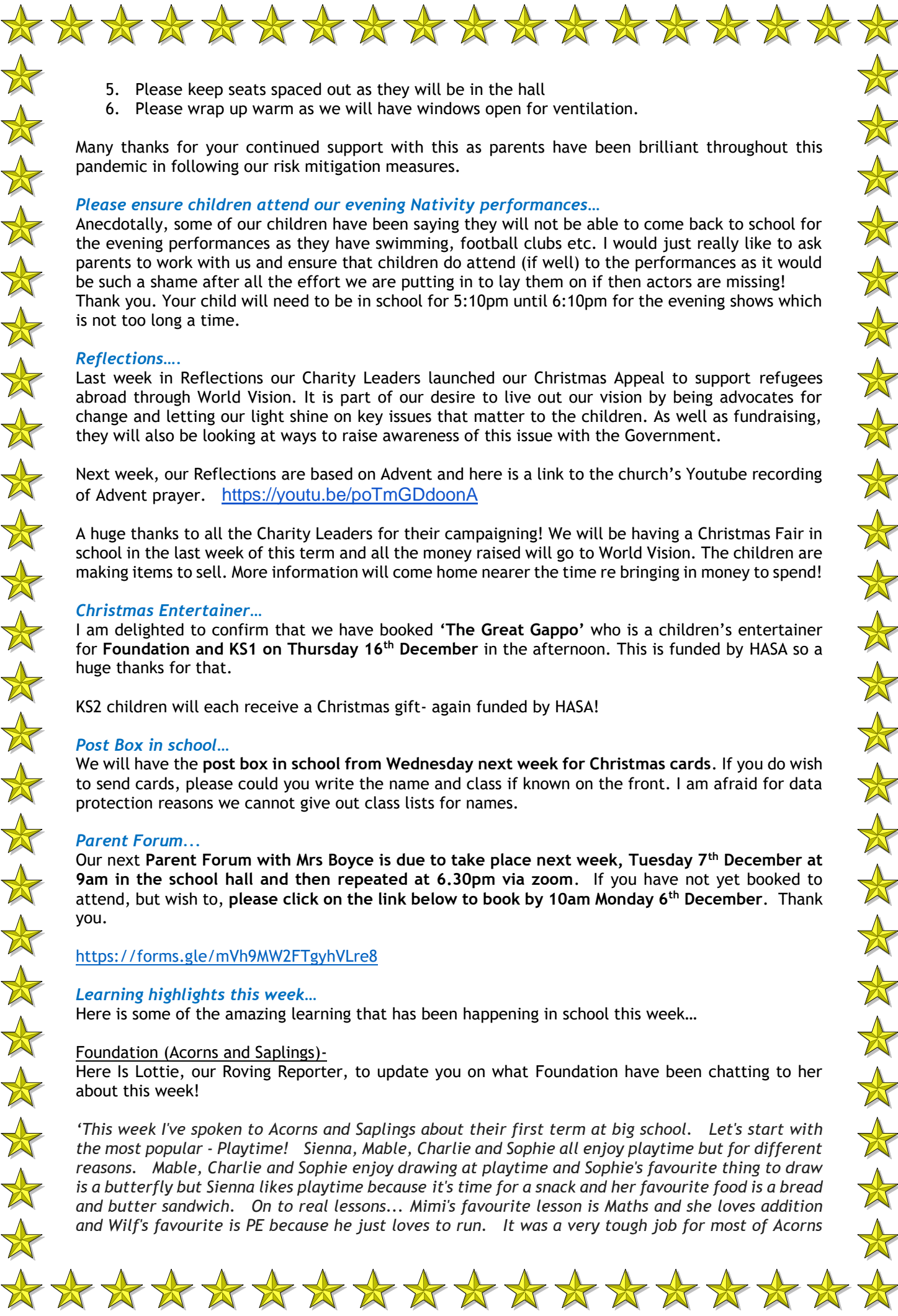
There has been much attention in the press and on TV about school Nativities and them going ahead in the light of the new Omicron variant.

We have taken advice from the DFE and also from Public Health England to risk assess and at this stage we believe the measures we have in place and current low case numbers in school, mean we can still go ahead with the Nativities next week as planned.

However, the caveat is that we still reserve the right to change this if there is a significant increase in cases in school.

To ensure we mitigate this, can I just remind parents attending the Nativities of the protocols that must be followed:

1. All parents must wear a face mask for the duration of the performance
2. Only parents who have booked seats will be admitted. We have significantly reduced audience numbers to ensure we can space out seats
3. Please can parents complete a lateral flow test at least 24 hours before attending
4. Please do not attend if you have any COVID symptoms or feel unwell

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5. Please keep seats spaced out as they will be in the hall
  6. Please wrap up warm as we will have windows open for ventilation.

Many thanks for your continued support with this as parents have been brilliant throughout this pandemic in following our risk mitigation measures.

#### *Please ensure children attend our evening Nativity performances...*

Anecdotally, some of our children have been saying they will not be able to come back to school for the evening performances as they have swimming, football clubs etc. I would just really like to ask parents to work with us and ensure that children do attend (if well) to the performances as it would be such a shame after all the effort we are putting in to lay them on if then actors are missing! Thank you. Your child will need to be in school for 5:10pm until 6:10pm for the evening shows which is not too long a time.

#### *Reflections....*

Last week in Reflections our Charity Leaders launched our Christmas Appeal to support refugees abroad through World Vision. It is part of our desire to live out our vision by being advocates for change and letting our light shine on key issues that matter to the children. As well as fundraising, they will also be looking at ways to raise awareness of this issue with the Government.

Next week, our Reflections are based on Advent and here is a link to the church's Youtube recording of Advent prayer. <https://youtu.be/poTmGDdoonA>

A huge thanks to all the Charity Leaders for their campaigning! We will be having a Christmas Fair in school in the last week of this term and all the money raised will go to World Vision. The children are making items to sell. More information will come home nearer the time re bringing in money to spend!

#### *Christmas Entertainer...*

I am delighted to confirm that we have booked 'The Great Gappo' who is a children's entertainer for **Foundation and KS1 on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December** in the afternoon. This is funded by HASA so a huge thanks for that.

KS2 children will each receive a Christmas gift- again funded by HASA!

#### *Post Box in school...*

We will have the **post box in school from Wednesday next week for Christmas cards**. If you do wish to send cards, please could you write the name and class if known on the front. I am afraid for data protection reasons we cannot give out class lists for names.

#### *Parent Forum...*

Our next Parent Forum with Mrs Boyce is due to take place next week, **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9am in the school hall and then repeated at 6.30pm via zoom**. If you have not yet booked to attend, but wish to, please click on the link below to book by **10am Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you.

<https://forms.gle/mVh9MW2FTgyhVLre8>

#### *Learning highlights this week...*

Here is some of the amazing learning that has been happening in school this week...

#### Foundation (Acorns and Saplings)-

Here is Lottie, our Roving Reporter, to update you on what Foundation have been chatting to her about this week!

*'This week I've spoken to Acorns and Saplings about their first term at big school. Let's start with the most popular - Playtime! Sienna, Mable, Charlie and Sophie all enjoy playtime but for different reasons. Mable, Charlie and Sophie enjoy drawing at playtime and Sophie's favourite thing to draw is a butterfly but Sienna likes playtime because it's time for a snack and her favourite food is a bread and butter sandwich. On to real lessons... Mimi's favourite lesson is Maths and she loves addition and Wilf's favourite is PE because he just loves to run. It was a very tough job for most of Acorns*



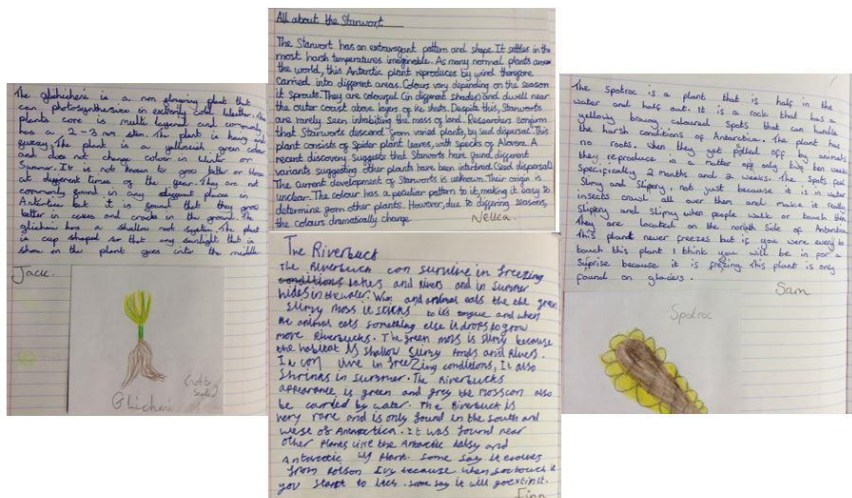


Well done also to Imogen, Roseanna, Malachi and Harry B for their amazing instructions about how to trap the Iron Man!

#### Year Five and Six-

The classes have been working on bringing all of their learning together from their topic this term and creating a plant that would survive in Antarctica. Thank you to Sam, Jack Ba, Nelka, and Finn for super application of knowledge.

I have also seen great learning from Ava, Samina, and Herbert in Maths and from Polly, Laurence, Pippa, Hollie, Jacob B and Toby in writing.



Finally, here are some of the artwork that Year Five and Six have produced as part of their unit on patterns and nature.



#### HASA update

Having just purchased a staggering number of crackers it can only mean the countdown to Christmas lunch is on!

Thank you to all involved with our Winter Crafternoon on Wednesday, it was wonderful to see so many children enjoying themselves, and there have already been enquiries about running another so watch this space for news of a Spring session in 2022!

Christmas raffle tickets are now heading home with your children, and will also be on sale at the Nativity performances next week - we are still happily accepting donations for the hampers and will have the donations box at HASA's Treat Friday stall next week.

Finally, bulk orders for Krispy Kreme doughnuts have to be placed by Monday - individual ones will be available on the last day of term as usual, but if you're looking to start the holidays as you mean to go on then please make sure you've ordered via ParentPay before the end of the weekend.

*Diary dates reminders for next week....*

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Foundation Nativity @ 2.00pm (doors open at 1.40pm)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Foundation Nativity @ 2.00pm (doors open at 1.40pm)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - NHS Nursing Team to carry out Year 1 Vision Screening followed by Year 6 Height and Weight checks from 9.30am

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Parent Forum with Mrs Boyce @ 9.00am in the Hall and repeated at 6.30pm via Zoom

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Year 6 Christmas Cracked Event from 9.10-11.30am

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - KS1 Nativity @ 5.30pm (doors open at 5.10pm)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December - KS1 Nativity @ 2.00pm (doors open at 1.40pm), then again at 5.30pm (doors open at 5.10pm)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Foundation and KS1 making Christingles

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Foundation and KS1 Christingle Service at Church @ 1.45pm. There are still seats available if you wish to attend. Please click on the link below to book:

<https://www.highashschool.co.uk/form/?pid=88&form=263>

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - KS2 making Christingles

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December - KS2 Carol Service at Church @ 1.45pm. All seats booked, no further spaces available.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December - HASA Doughnuts at the end of the day

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December - End of Term (school finishes at the normal time)

Think that is all for this week!

Hope you all have a good weekend.

Best wishes,

*Sara J Boyce*

Mrs. Sara Boyce

Headteacher

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