



# High Ash CE School

## Weekly Newsletter/Blog

### Friday 26th November 2021

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



## Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families

It is hard to believe that there are only three weeks of school left until we break up for Christmas and so I thought it would be useful to start this newsletter with our Christmas Countdown planner to help you tick things off over the next three weeks and stay as organised as possible at this time of year! Therefore, this week's newsletter is more of an organisational update than the usual learning updates we have- however we have still summarised some of our learning highlights from the week too!

### Christmas Countdown....

Date and time	Event	Notes
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 9:30am	KS2 Christmas Tree Walk and Advent Outdoor Service	<p>We will be leaving school at 9:30am from the playground.</p> <p>If you are walking with your child, please can you come into the hall to wait from drop off- thank you!</p> <p>If this is the first time you have taken part, please wrap up warm and wear wellies!</p> <p>Children to come into school in wellies and can also wear jogging bottoms/trousers. They will need their school shoes and uniform in a carrier bag to change into later when back in school.</p> <p>Due to allergies, please do not bring any snacks for your child- school do provide a biscuit on the walk.</p> <p>Also, photos and recordings are not permitted for safeguarding reasons- thank you for your understanding with this.</p>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2:30pm (parents to arrive from 2:20pm)	Foundation and KS1 Christmas Advent Outdoor Service and Tree Planting	<p>This will be on the school field, weather permitting.</p> <p>Please can you arrive at 2:20pm via the black school gates where a staff member will direct you to where you will need to stand.</p>

		<p>Children will come out at 2:30pm and stand in their class groups.</p> <p>They will need to have brought in their wellies on Friday morning in a carrier bag so they can change into them in the afternoon. Please ensure wellies are named- Thank you!</p> <p>We will be adding our Star Assembly on to the end of the outdoor service so you can stay to see that too!</p> <p>Photos and recordings are not permitted for safeguarding reasons- thank you for your understanding.</p>
<p>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December &amp; Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>2pm</p>	<p>Foundation Nativity</p>	<p>Doors open at 1:40pm- only adults with seats reserved will be admitted and our COVID protocols require all adults to wear a mask when in school and to ideally have completed a lateral flow test and have a negative result.</p> <p>HASA will provide refreshments</p> <p>Please remember there are no photos or recordings allowed for safeguarding reasons, yet we are having the performance professionally recorded for you to then purchase.</p> <p>Children will return to class after the performance for normal collection at 3:30pm</p>
<p>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>9am and then 6:30pm</p>	<p>Parent Forum</p> <p>9am- in school with coffee and cake</p> <p>6:30pm- via Zoom online</p>	<p>This is our half termly Parent Forum to which all parents are invited to meet with myself and gain updates and have input on school plans for the next term.</p> <p>Details of how to book are now live on this link so hope to see many of you there at one of the sessions.</p> <p><a href="https://forms.gle/ndU4bJCdfDj98fE6">https://forms.gle/ndU4bJCdfDj98fE6</a></p>
<p>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>9.10-11.30am</p>	<p>Year 6 to Christmas Cracked at Water Eaton Church Centre</p>	<p>Separate correspondence was sent home on the 9<sup>th</sup> November regarding this.</p>
<p>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>5:30pm</p>	<p>KS1 Nativity</p>	<p>Children will need to arrive at 5:10pm and doors will then open to parents who have booked for the performance. Only adults with seats reserved will be admitted and our COVID protocols require all adults to wear a mask when in school and to ideally have completed a lateral flow test and have a negative result.</p>

		<p>HASA will provide refreshments</p> <p>Please remember there are no photos or recordings allowed for safeguarding reasons, yet we are having the performance professionally recorded for you to then purchase.</p> <p>If you are not attending the performance, you will need to return to collect your child at 6:10pm and wait outside the hall fire door in the car park area.</p>
<p>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>2pm</p> <p>5.30pm</p>	KS1 Nativity	<p>Doors open at 1:40pm- only adults with tickets will be admitted and our COVID protocols require all adults to wear a mask when in school and to ideally have completed a lateral flow test and have a negative result.</p> <p>Children will return to class after the performance for normal collection at 3:30pm</p> <p>Children will need to arrive at 5:10pm and doors will then open to parents who have booked for the performance. Only adults with seats reserved will be admitted</p> <p>HASA will provide refreshments</p> <p>Please remember there are no photos or recordings allowed for safeguarding reasons, yet we are having the afternoon performance professionally recorded for you to then purchase.</p>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation and KS1	Please send your child into school with an orange so they can make their Christingles- thank you! We supply everything else they will need.
<p>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>1:45pm</p>	Christingle at Church for Foundation and KS1	<b>Due to church capacity- only one adult per child can attend.</b> We request you wear a mask and ideally have had a negative lateral flow test.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2	Please send your child into school with an orange so they can make their Christingles- thank you! We supply everything else they will need.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	This year we have taken the decision not to host Good Companions Concert due to concerns over inviting elderly at risk visitors into a school re	

	COVID19- I am sure you will understand this.	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Service at Church	Due to church capacity- <b>Only one adult per child can attend.</b> We request you wear a mask and ideally have had a negative lateral flow test.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term- school finishes at normal time	

### *Star Assembly from January 2022...*

We are hopeful that from January, we will be able to invite parents to attend Star Assemblies again on a Friday. We will be sending home latest diary dates before the end of term with full details on when Star Assemblies are for each Key Stage (as they alternate each week). Star Assemblies will move back to their old time of 2:45pm with doors open from 2:30pm. Again, this is all dependent on COVID19 rates and we do reserve the right to change this at any time.

### *Update re Golden Time from January 2022*

Having been listening to the children, we have decided to tweak Golden Time slightly from January 2022 and it will be renamed 'Time to Shine'. In order to provide a range of purposeful experiences, then every child will have the opportunity to take part in enrichment opportunities such as cooking, Art, drama, sport, community or charity work.

As each child needs to access this, then any lost 'Golden Time' will take place during some of lunch play instead. We have also found from feedback from the children this acts more as a deterrent for them. As lunch time playtime is thirty minutes then there will still be time for the children to play as well as have their consequence.

### *Learning highlights this week*

Foundation- Acorns and Saplings- There has been continued focus on their woodland topic this week.

They have been learning about how nature gets ready for winter. Both classes have used watercolour to create an icy blue backdrop and then painted trees. They learned a new technique, using straws to blow paint. They had to think carefully about the speed and direction of where to blow the paint to get the effect they wanted. I have seen the children looking closely at the characters of 'The Gruffalo's Child' and have been using adjectives to describe them. Finally, they have been creating their own characters by mixing up the features of the original characters.



Special mention to Esmae who did some fantastic maths work this week and was able to show me how many different ways she could make 7!

I have also been impressed with the Nativity rehearsals this week and the singing from the hall has been a joy to hear!



Year One and Two- as part of their Topic this week, the children have been looking at inventions from the Victorian era. Kaycie, Bobby and Jad came to share their knowledge with me and were so proud of their independent learning.

In Maths, Harry, Cali C, Mayura and Lara had worked so hard on doubling and halving and also using the inverse to solve 'What number did I start with?' problems.

As part of our Reflections this week, the children have been looking at how we can protect God's planet and make a covenant to look after the environment, just like in the bible story of Noah's Ark. All three classes came up with great ways to look at being Glitter Free this Christmas and ways to have a 'green' Christmas. Thank you to the children that came to the front of the assembly and shared their ideas!

#### Year Three and Four-

Thank you to Esme, Gianna and Tadi for their hard work re-drafting and improving their instructions in English-this approach is working really well in getting all the children to think and act like a writer would and they can take pride in their improvements. Alissa, Carmen and Anisha also had evidence of great writing progress in their books.

In PE, the year groups are doing Gymnastics and this week have been coming up with their own routines and moves and then sharing ideas with their peers. Miss Hearne gave Callum and Jerrold Gold Stars for the routine they came up with.

Well done to Hawthorn Class for their Sharing Assembly to parents today- they were all amazing and have learnt so much in their 'Mighty Metals' topic.

#### Year Five and Six-

The classes have continued to learn about Antarctica this week and its protected status. This is an example (opposite) of Bobbi, Libby, Lottie and Nelka's ideas on how to continue to preserve it.

I have also seen great learning from Liviya, Emilia, Cody and Samina in Maths in their work on fractions and indeed I saw Emilia twice as she had also impressed her teacher with her mental maths too!

In RE, the children have been learning more about Creation and this has linked in with our focus in Reflections on protecting the environment and the planet. Ava, Varsha, Renee and Archie showed some great reflective insight into this.

In Science, the children have been learning more about seed dispersal and I was very proud of how much knowledge the children had gained and also could remember! Josh, Lottie and Evie R were able to explain the many different methods of seed dispersal and also link it to learning they had last year on Charles Darwin.

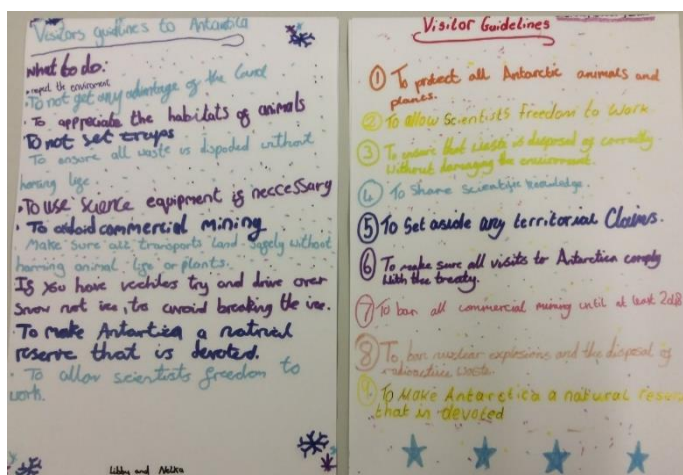
#### Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported the Poppy Appeal this year and to HASA for helping to sell the merchandise. We raised an amazing £440.13 and this contributed to the village total funds raised of £1754.83.

This money will help fund the vital work undertaken by the Royal British Legion providing lifelong support to serving and ex-serving members of our Armed Forces and their families.

If you have not yet seen our Remembrance prayers, they are still up on display in St Mary's Church.

Letter re start and finish time changes from January 2022



I hope all parents/carers have seen the letter sent home this week about our return to our pre-COVID start and finish times from January 2022 and the end of staggered start and finish times. It is great that the Walking Bus has been so popular and we have already filled the 40 places.

#### **Football Team**

Another well done to our Year 6 football squad who secured another home win this week. It was a cup match and so we are through to the next round. Thank you to Bryce, Alessio, Ethan, Sam H, Jake C, Harrison, Alfie, Josh and Jack B who played so brilliantly and showed great sportsmanship too. It was great to see so many parents too and also a thank you to Mr Fellows for his ongoing role as manager and coach!

This is the match analysis from Alessio, Ethan and Bryce.

*'The second half was the most challenging so had to strive through. Both teams played exceptionally well. It was a hard match and the other team progressed as the match continued. Both sides deserved to win'*

#### **HASA News**

It was fantastic to be able to hold HASA's first 'in-school' event for over 18 months with this week's Film Night, and we are looking forward to Crafting with KS1 on December 1st too! Thank you to all the families who have supported these events, we are still in need of additional helpers for the Crafternoon (which runs from 3.30-4.30pm), so please do get in touch if you can lend a hand for an hour or so. Please email [highashschoolassociation@gmail.com](mailto:highashschoolassociation@gmail.com).

Now that December is merely days away our pre-loved Christmas jumpers will be available at Treat Friday stalls leading up to December 10th. We are also looking forward to the Nativities, and will be offering festive refreshments at every performance, along with the chance to sneak a peak at the prizes to be won in the Winter raffle - donations for the hampers are still being gratefully accepted in the school foyer. Following on from that, Doughnut day is also on the horizon -please see the separate email sent yesterday with order dates and details.

Lots to think of at this time of year, so hope the countdown is helpful and we are looking forward to seeing parents in school enjoying the end of year events. Fingers crossed all can go to plan, so please stay vigilant re COVID19. Keep lateral flow testing if you can and PCR test if your child is unwell. Thank you!

#### **New Kitchen Team in the Ash Tree...**

Our new Kitchen Team are up and running and Michelle has been joined by Lizzie (Second Chef) and Lyndsey (Kitchen Assistant)- they have settled well into school and are enjoying getting to know the children too. Our Roving Reporter, Lottie has been focusing on food and the Ash Tree this week!

*'We all seem to love talking about food so I thought this week I would ask people about their favourite school lunches. Maggie from Foundation likes the burgers and donuts and Frankie likes the chicken wraps. Donuts and hot dogs get the vote from Sophie. Making our own burgers is a favourite for Amaya and Beatrice likes Toad in the Hole and crumble. I think everyone likes crumble and custard on a Friday! I'm enjoying getting to know Lizzie and Lyndsey too and they always have fun with us.'*

#### **Stoke Hammond Church events...**

St Luke's Church are holding their Christmas Fayre in the Stoke Hammond Community Centre from 1.30 until 4pm tomorrow, Saturday 27th November. There will be plenty to see and do: plants, advent candles and calendars, cakes, raffle, unwanted new gifts, activities for children and Father Christmas will be making an appearance.

Also, they will be holding a Christingle service on Sunday 5th December at 4pm in St Luke's Church (top of Old School Lane). They would love it to be filled with children, especially KS2 if they feel they've missed out on their Christingle candle this year!

Have a great weekend- I think it is going to be a cold one and I feel my hat and gloves are definitely needed when I am walking my dog this weekend. There are also only 29 shopping days to Christmas so I suppose I better get on with that too.....!

Best wishes,

*Sara J Boyce*

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