



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter/Blog

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

Welcome back to school after half term and I hope you all had a good break. There is a lot to read and share this week so please do take the time as it is all great stuff!

Thank you for reading the latest COVID-19 update that I sent home at the start of this week. Fortunately, the half term holiday does appear to have acted as a circuit break and we have had no net increase in the number of cases this week. However, we are mindful that that next couple of weeks could see an increase nationally and so it is important that we all remain vigilant. We will of course keep you updated should we need to implement our contingency plans.

At this stage, we are still intending to go ahead with our planned Christmas events yet we will keep this under review so we can be sure that we can mitigate risk as best we can and prioritise where needed. Our aim is to do as much as we normally would as safely as we can!

#### ***Parents' Evenings...***

It was good to be able to hold our first face to face (albeit masked and socially distanced!) parents' evening since the pandemic started and there was a great buzz and positive atmosphere. Many parents commented on how good it felt to be back in the building and also reassuring for new parents who have not yet experienced the welcoming environment of being in the school itself. I know the teachers also found the evenings really useful in building those home/school relationships that are not the same if only built over the phone or Zoom! It was great to hear parents talking about how much work they could see in their children's books and the range of topics being taught as it is reassuring that in spite of still being in a pandemic we are able to offer the breadth and depth of the curriculum that we always have.

#### ***Parent Forum and Parent Survey....***

Next week, I will be sending out a Parent Survey via Google Form to gain some parental insight on views on our school so please take part in this when it comes out. It really should take no more than five minutes and we do look at and value all your feedback.

The dates for this term's Parent Forum have been changed so that we can now have a mix of in school also remote Parent Forums in order to ensure as many parents who wish to take part can.

**The Parent Forum will now be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9am (this will be in school in the hall) and then repeated at 6:30pm that evening, yet via Zoom.** This mixed approach is in response to parent feedback and also we are hoping more Dads/male carers will be able to join us as it would be good to get perspectives from as wide a range of parent/carers as possible.

It is also a great way to hear my views on school first hand and to ask me questions and have input on school life!

More details on how to book a place will come out nearer the time.

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

There has been so much great learning going on in school again this week. I have really enjoyed my lesson visits and talking to the children about their work.

### *Update from our Roving Reporter, Lottie...*

*'Diwali, Towers, Turrets and Tunnels, Mighty Metals and In to the Unknown are our topics this term and everyone I've spoken to thinks the teachers are amazing and the topics are fantastic!'*

*In the Magical Essence of Diwali the children in Foundation really enjoyed making the signs for their very own festival of lights this week. Year 1 and 2 had fun before half term making model castles and are now excited to be learning about life inside those castles. I can remember the Mighty Metals topic when I was in Year 3/4. Its lots of fun learning about magnets and using them to make other metals move....it was like magic! I hope the Year 3's and 4's enjoy it as much as I did. Luckily Year 5 and 6 didn't get lost on their trek Into the Unknown and are now busily learning about Antarctica and Shackleton....it's makes us all feel cold though, good job we had crumble and custard for pudding today!!'*

Foundation- (Acorns and Saplings)- This week the children have loved learning about Diwali and reading 'Binny's Diwali'. They have used this to plan and carry out their own Diwali party. They have used their cutting skills to make decorations, have made diyas in clay and then thought about ways to improve them and make them even more detailed. Well done William and Aria for this! The children have also used their number knowledge to make tickets and invitations for the party. They have even been constructing transport to get them to the party!



Well done to Rocco, Mimi and Lulu who showed me how well they understand the number 5 - I was very impressed with their counting and reasoning!



Year One and Two- To start off their new Topic, the year groups dressed as royalty for their Hook Day on Monday. They learnt about the current monarch and how she became the Queen and began to think about what qualities a monarch may need.

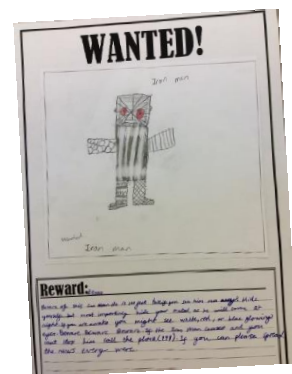


In English, the focus this unit is on instructions and on Hook Day, the classes had a Victorian Tea Party so they could then use this experience to help them with their writing.

I need to give a special mention to Freya J, Albie and Aaliyah showed great independent learning in their lessons this week- well done!

Year Three and Four- For their Mighty Metals hook day, Year 3 and 4 received a letter from the police, informing them that there had been a number of metal thefts in our region recently! They found a mountain of metal outside on the playground and a letter from a boy called Hogarth, explaining that he had recently lost his friend - the Iron Man. To help the police with their investigation, the children created 'Wanted' posters which described the missing giant. They also used mark making techniques to shade in the Iron Man and create different textures for the metal.





Thank you to Aria, Imogen, George and Senara for sharing their Maths learning with me on perimeter this week. I also enjoyed talking to Jayden, Miles, Gianna, Ezme, Esme, Tatiana, Eve and Leo about their Maths learning too.



Year Five and Six- As their topic is based on Antarctica, the children started their Hook Day with an ice experiment in Science. They had a hypothesis that they had decided to test out.

Does ice melt more quickly in fresh or salt water?

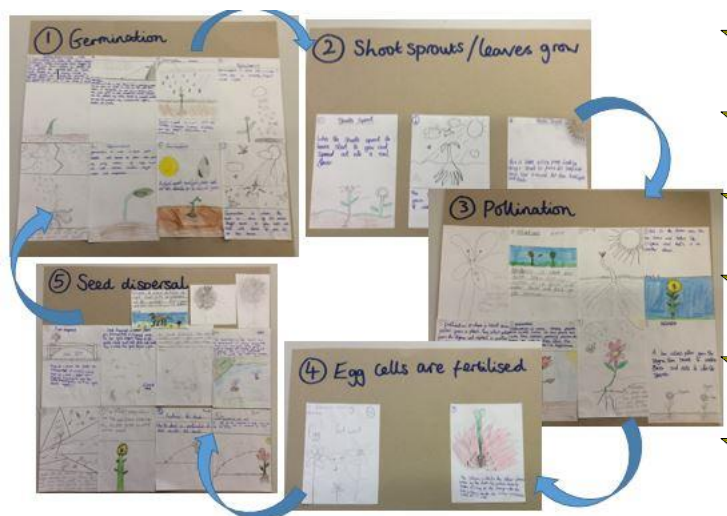
*The ice melted more quickly in the fresh water. In the salt water, however, the ice melted more slowly. This is because the ice melted was less dense than the salt water so floated on top and therefore kept the ice colder for longer which slowed down the rate of melting.* - Willow Class



As they are also learning about what plants grow best and where, they have first looked at seed dispersal. They will use this knowledge later to assess what plants are able to grow in extreme conditions such as Antarctica.

Finally, well done to Jake C, Harry J, Pippa, Xanthe, Hollie and Samina for their layered map work in Geography looking at the features of Antarctica and to Alex H, Anya, Varsha, Ralph and Ben L for their hard work in Maths!

Thank you to Willow Class for the super Sharing Assembly today to their parents- so much great knowledge gained!



### *Reflections this week....*

With the help of the Reflection Leaders in Year Five and Six, our focus this term is on #bethechange to protect the planet. This links to the recent focus on climate change with COP26. We looked at the story of Creation in the Bible and it made us think about how God asked us as humans to look after the world he had created. The children have then spent this week finding photos of creation that make them stop in awe and wonder at the world and also identify what we feel will work to protect; be it saving trees, preventing global warming, plastic pollution or protecting animal habitats. We said prayers and reflections about looking after the environment. Later this half term we will be then looking at ways we can make a difference to the environment and will be launching our campaign to for a Glitter Free Green Christmas. Watch this space!

### *Remembrance and Reflections next week.... please can you send in a photo of a family member you would like to remember?*

Next week, we will be remembering and honouring the military personnel who have sacrificed their lives so that we have our freedom today. This year, the Reflection Leaders and myself would like the and staff to share photos and memories of relatives in their families that they would like to remember so they can write a prayer or reflection for them and then we can also have these in Church too. This will also make it a more personal experience.

If you do have any photos that you do not mind your child sharing, please bring in a copy of the photo to school for Tuesday next week.

An example of what I mean is like the photo here of my grandparents in their military uniforms on their wedding day during WW2 and of my grandfather serving for the army in France. You may have more recent photos of family members who have served in more recent conflicts. Commando Pete will be speaking to KS2 about how the army mark Remembrance Day and bringing in his medals to share with the children of his time serving in Afghanistan.



### *Church Service of Remembrance....*

This year we will be continuing with tradition and three of our pupils will be laying a poppy wreath on behalf of school at the Remembrance Day church service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 10:30am at St Mary's Church, Great Brickhill. If you are able to also come to the service, I know you will be very welcome.

### *Nut allergies reminder...*

Just to remind you that we are a 'nut free' school as we do have children here with allergies. Please do not send anything to school as either a packed lunch or snack that contains nuts. This includes things like Nutella chocolate spread- thank you!

### *World Vision and amount raised...*

Thank you for your support of our fundraising for World Vision as part of our #bethechange against food poverty and hunger. Our non-uniform day raised £261.00.

### *HASA*

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a balloon over half term, the race is underway and we will announce the winners next week! Individual artwork created for Christmas cards will be sent home



very soon, so please keep a look out for the order deadline and details. Whilst on the topic of Christmas - for any of you starting to do some festive online shopping please remember to use the Amazon Smile and easyfundraising links for High Ash School Association (they're on our Facebook page). There's also the 'donate' button on ParentPay if you don't use either of these sites but feel like contributing nevertheless.

Next week we will open the bookings for the KS2 Film Night on 24th November and the KS1 Christmas Craft Afternoon on 1st December - a reminder that we need additional parent volunteers to help maintain the adult:child ratios which enable the events to run, so if you are able to help please do get in touch via Gmail or Facebook.

### *Commando Joe's...*

We thought you would like to see some of our children enjoying the teamwork and resilience training they have been having as part of our personal development programme with our Commando Pete. These Year One/Two children had to work as a team to build a base camp that would keep them dry!



*Diary dates coming up in the next couple of weeks....*

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November @ 3pm - Poppy Appeal merchandise on sale in the playground

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November @ 2.30pm - Fdn and KS1 Assembly (No parents)

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November @ 3pm - HASA Treats

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November @ 9am - Individual and School Sibling photographs in school

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November @ 2.30pm - KS2 Assembly (No parents)

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November @ 3pm - HASA Treats

Best wishes,

*Sara J Boyce*

Mrs. Sara Boyce

Headteacher

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