



Where High Ash CE School ★ Weekly Newsletter/Blog ★ Friday 22nd October 2021



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Well here we are at half term and we have managed 8 weeks of school life being back to normal and uninterrupted for all our children. This has been such a boost to their well-being and learning. I am so proud of all of them and also of my staff too who have worked so hard this term to get back into the fullness of school life.

We are all keeping our fingers crossed that this continues. So far, we have been able to operate without any need to action our COVID19 contingency plans. However we do keep this under constant review and would of course let you know should we need to put back in place any restrictions. If you need a reminder, our COVID19 contingency plan can be found on our website via this link:

<http://highash45.ng2.devwebsite.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=3414&type=pdf>

We are aware that there is a nasty cold going around which has affected some of the staff as well as the children and we are asked by Public Health to remind anyone with COVID19 symptoms to have a PCR test to confirm if COVID or not. Thank you to those parents who are doing this. If the test is negative, then your child can return to school if they are well enough.

Pumpkin Heroes- letting their light shine

In our Reflections this week, we discussed all our actions in supporting raise awareness about global hunger and letting our light shine. We have this week donated our Harvest Collection to the local food bank and also had a non-uniform day to raise money for World Vision and their work in tackling hunger.

We also had a Reflection when we lit our 'Pumpkin Heroes' and said World Vision's Children's Prayer of hope and love. Our pumpkins were carved with love hearts, stars, candles and a cross and we lit them from our main Reflection Candle to show our light shining and being passed on.



Thank you also to all the families who supported our Harvest donation and to Alby and Maeve who made the salt dough wheatsheaf at the centre of our display!



In addition, you will find below You Tube links from church for the twentieth Sunday after Trinity.

Reflection & Prayer:- <https://youtu.be/0kzKML5RDRw>
"Goodbye at Last":- <https://youtu.be/nOrjfQ8Yijo>

Learning Highlights this week...

This week we have had our Themed Week in school for Years One to Six, so please read on to find out what they have been up to! For Foundation (Acorns and Saplings) their focus this week has been on recording and performing their puppet show based on 'Funny Bones' by the Ahlbergs and using their growing knowledge of the human body!

Foundation (Acorns and Saplings)- I have been so impressed with the learning in Foundation this week- WOW! They have really shown their creative and imaginative side as well as gain some fantastic knowledge about the human body. Well done too for all the technical and scientific vocabulary they are using too.

I need to say a special thank you to Mimi for the invitation she wrote to me to come to the puppet show and for my ticket!

Well done to William, Rupert, Lilah, Maggie, Wilf, Olivia, Esmae, Hendrix, Arthur, Dixie, Frankie, Harrison and Georgia who came to my office to share with me their menus for the Skeleton Café they had made and also their skeleton models. They had video clips to share with me of them rehearsing their puppet shows! It was so great to hear them retelling the story.

The highlight for me was to be invited to watch the puppet show on Friday and all the children were amazing!



Year One and Two- This week, their History Themed Week has focused on understanding monarchy and castles ahead of their topic next half term. They have been learning about lots of different castles and their features and I have been delighted to hear them using words such as battlements, crests, portcullis, keep, drawbridge and bailey.

They have then applied this knowledge to build their own castles with these features!



In Maths, they have been tackling addition and subtraction problems and I was very proud of the progress of Ava-Rose, Sebastian B, Ethan M, Noah, Zachary and Mayura that I could see in their Maths books.

Year Three and Four- Just before I talk about Themed Week, I had the pleasure of seeing the following children's work at the end of their 'Scrumdilyumptious' topic and it really did show how much knowledge they had gained and could recall about food groups, healthy diets, fair trade and food distribution: Afie M, Callum, Esme, Aria, Isobel, Isla, George, Gianna, Harrison, Jessica, Kaydin, Malachi, Harry B, Zoe and Darcey.

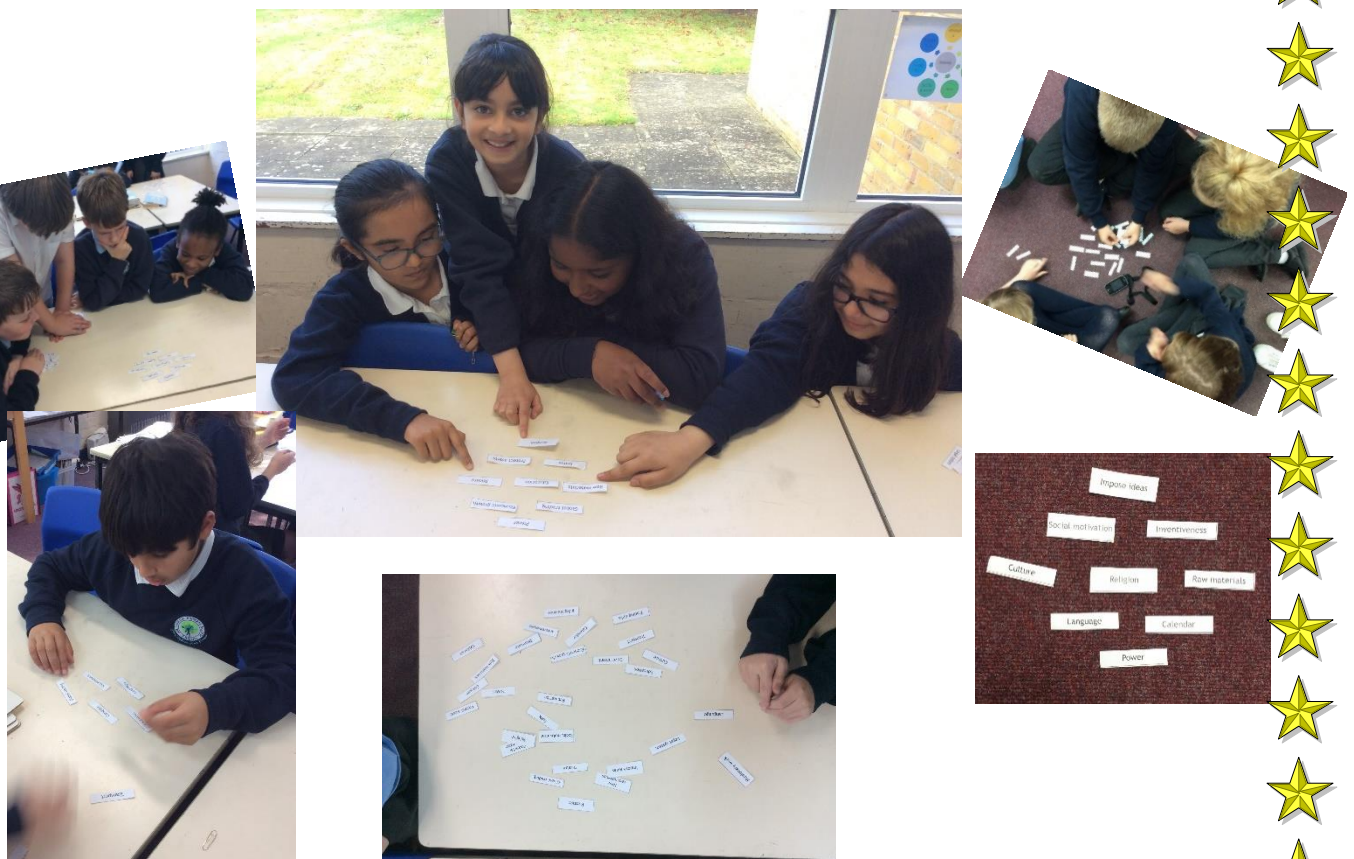
For Themed Week, their History focus has been on looking at the concept of significance and ranking key figures they have learnt about in History either in Y3/4 or in KS1 and assessing who they felt had the greatest influence and why. They have made Top Trump cards for the key historical figures of Mary Seacole, Mary Anning, Queen Elizabeth 1, Queen Victoria, Neil Armstrong and Samuel Pepys. They then ranked them in a Diamond 6 formation according to altruism, power, resilience or wealth.

Year Five and Year Six - Not to be outdone, Year Five and Six have also had a successful Themed Week, learning about empire and its meaning. In talking to them, they have really grasped the concept of Empire and its advantages and disadvantages, impact on life today socially, politically and economically and can compare the British Empire with the Roman Empire they studied back in Year Three and Four. Thank you to Jamie Mc, Greta and Alessio for their super explanations to me when I talked to them in class.

Special mention to Jake M and Jake C for their effort with their work on Empire too!

The children considered what the benefits might be of having an empire and decided in groups, which would be the nine most important features. Then they created a diamond nine to rank them in order of importance in their opinion.

Calendar	Language	Legal system	Raw materials
Trading links	Culture	Status	Education
Rivalry	Government	Transport	Global trading
Power	Conquer	Independence	Inventiveness
Prestige	Impose ideas	Missionary work	New technologies
Economic growth	Dominate	Education	Slave trade
Social motivation	Religion	Financial gain/wealth	Gain commercial advantages
Explorers	Navy	Reputation	Protect assets



News from Lottie, our Roving Reporter...

'Children are buzzing with excitement as we come to half term and they have been telling me what they have enjoyed learning about. Topics have been really popular this term, especially the Innovate stage at the end. Bobbi from Year 1 enjoyed making castles and Jacob from Year 3 loved learning about chocolate and making their own chocolate for their Innovate stage.'

Today (Friday) is mufti-day to fundraise for World Vision and some pupils have shared their excitement. Ariana from Foundation and Amaya from Year 6 have both told me that they were excited for mufti day, especially Ariana as it is her first. We have been hearing about World Vision's Pumpkin Heroes this week too - instead of carving scary faces in pumpkins we have carved kind words and positive symbols like a stars and hearts. Olivia from Foundation and Azalea from Year 1 have really enjoyed carving the pumpkins and the meaning behind it.

We have all been learning harvest songs over the last few weeks, songs like 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. Ethan from Year 1 and Clara from Year 3 have enjoyed their singing assemblies and learning about harvest and what it means today. And although the weather is changing now, Isla from Year 6 told me she liked the outside assemblies we had in the warmer weather - they seem a long time ago now!'

Class novels....

We love reading and sharing books with the children and as you know each class has a class novel that the teacher reads to them each day. This half term, Year Three and Four read 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and Year Five Six read 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. Next term, to support the children reading a range of texts that also fit with Topic, Year Three /Four are reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and Year Five and Six will be enjoying 'Race to the Frozen North' by Catherine Johnson. Year One and Two are reading 'Kings and Queens' by Tony Robinson. In addition, the children cover extracts from other related texts in their Guided Reading.

Foundation Stage have a book a week that they base their learning around. Next half term they are looking at 'Binny's Diwali' by Thrity Umrigar and then starting to look at the books within the Gruffalo series.

Curriculum Overviews for next half term

You will have been emailed home the curriculum overviews on Thursday so you can look ahead at the topics we are covering in all subjects next half term. In summary the main topic themes are:

- **Foundation:** Diwali and then 'Into the Woods'
- **Year One and Two:** Towers Tunnels and Turrets- this is a History based topic when they will learn about Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria
- **Year Three/Four-** Mighty Metals which is a Science based topic
- **Year Five and Six-** 'Into the Unknown' which is a Science and Geography topic.

The other subjects taught are also detailed on the curriculum overviews.

Staffing news....

Mrs Burrows and Mrs Crawley have now both officially started their maternity leave and we wish them all the very best as they look forward to this new chapter in their lives. Both babies are due mid-November and we will let you know when we get any news! They are due back to school in July 2022.

Jess Righatelo also has had her last day with us and we wish her well too. We have a new Second Chef joining Michelle on the 9th November and we are currently recruiting for a kitchen assistant and cleaner.

HASA and Balloon Race

HASA is excited to announce it is hosting its first ever virtual balloon race! It is very easy to get involved and take part in the balloon race - simply visit: balloonrace.com/HASA and click on the 'Buy a Balloon' button in the top right of the page to buy your balloon.

Each balloon costs £3, with the chance to win a £30 Amazon voucher for the winning balloon that is first to finish - but as the saying goes - you have to be in it to win it!

You can buy as many balloons as you like and you have the option to customise your balloon with a name, colour and message!

The balloon race will start at 12 midday on Thursday 4th November so there is plenty of time to get involved and buy a balloon. The balloon race will finish a week later on Thursday 11th November at 12 midday. During the race there will be regular updates on the leaders posted on HASA's Facebook page! Thank you in advance for supporting us and we are looking forward to launching the race after half term.

HASA Committee

Waddeson Manor Christmas Project reminder...

The whole school has taken part in the Waddeson Manor Christmas Project this year. The children thought about the journeys they would like to make and where they would like to go. These journey dreams will be written on specially made metal boats that will be displayed in the yew tree at the entrance of Miss Alice's Drive, the Woodland Walk. As a thank you, each child has a unique booking code to get one free ticket to the grounds for themselves as well as four discounted tickets. If you are interested in visiting Waddeson Manor, please email the school office. We will then send you your unique code and instructions to help with booking.

School Lunches...

Thank you for your patience this week when we needed to make last-minute changes to the menu. We do our best to avoid changing the menu but it was unavoidable.

The menu for the second half of the term will be available to book from Monday 25th October. This menu goes all the way through until the Christmas holidays and includes a Christmas lunch on Friday 10th December. Please ensure you have booked your child's meal by 9am on the day. The new menu is attached with this newsletter.

Parents Evening...

These are due to take place on Tuesday 2nd November from 5.00-8.00pm and Thursday 4th November from 3.40-6.00pm. If you have not already booked your time slot to meet your child's class teacher, it is not too late, please click on the link below to book your appointment:

<https://highash.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Diary dates coming up....

Sunday 31st October- deadline for secondary school applications for September 2022.

Monday 1st November- children back to school.

Tuesday 2nd November- Parents' Evening 5pm-8pm (please remember to have booked online as per previous correspondence)

Thursday 4th November- Parents' Evening 3:40pm- 6pm

Friday 5th November- Willow Class Sharing Assembly 2:30pm (Parents welcome!)

Please remember that all the dairy dates for the whole academic year are on our website under the 'Parents' tab.

Have a great half term and we a look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 1st November!

Best wishes,

Sara J Boyce

Mrs. Sara Boyce
Headteacher

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