



Where High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter/Blog

Friday 15th October 2021

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

There is lots to update you on from this week and it has been great seeing our Innovate Projects this week in Topic and also starting to see the wider opportunities being experienced by our children.

Harvest Festival....

It was lovely to have the children back in Church this week and it was packed full of Year Three and Four children and their parents/families. It has been nearly two years since these year groups have been able to go to Church due to the pandemic so it really was a special moment. Darcey W summed it up when she said; 'Singing together in Church again made me feel so happy' and other children said it was 'great to be back as a community with parents there too'.

Thank you to Reverend Waller and the Church Wardens for their help with the service and the Harvest Blessing.

There is a Harvest Family Service at St Mary's Church, Great Brickhill, this Sunday at 11am and more information can be found on the attached flyer. Willow Class (in Year Five/Six) have written prayers for Harvest which are on display in Church. The other two Year Five/Six classes have written prayers for our Harvest at school.

'Letting our light shine' at Harvest...

Thank you for all the donations to our Food Bank Collection which we have in the hall. We know that there has been a 45% increase in demand for Food Banks since COVID19 so we are really hoping to get as many donations as possible. There is still time as we are collecting until next Wednesday!

As a reminder, on Friday 22nd October (last day of Half term) the children have requested a non-uniform day to bring in a £1 each and wear something orange for our support for World Vision's campaign to end world hunger. Thank you in advance for supporting this. Don't worry if you do not have something orange- but if you do, they can wear it. However, please don't buy something just for this one day.

Reflections next week...Pumpkin Heroes- A World Vision project...

In recognition of World Food Day on 16th October, we will be looking at all the people we need to be thankful for who produce all our food from farm to plate. As part of this we will be looking at the journey of a pumpkin.

We are also taking part in World Vision's annual Pumpkin Heroes project. This is a Christian alternative to Halloween and is about spreading messages of love and hope at this time of year and remembering those less fortunate. As you know we are raising money on Friday October 22nd to combat hunger.

I am mentioning this project as I wanted to emphasise to those families with a strong Christian faith and as a Church school that we are not in any way celebrating Halloween. The project involves children carving out loved designs into pumpkins and then lighting them to letting their light shine on everyone. I just wanted to make that clear in case any mixed messages came home. For more information on this you can visit <https://www.worldvision.org.uk/church-partners/pumpkin-heroes/>

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns and Saplings (Foundation)- What an amazing week and the children are really so well settled into their learning routines and have really taken on the learning opportunities this week. They have loved finding out about skeletons through reading 'Funny Bones' by the Ahlbergs and have a real skeleton in the classroom that they decided to call Max! From re-telling the story, Acorns Class are busy creating a puppet show, making their own puppets, props and set. Sapling Class are being cameramen and will be filming all the shows! It has been a delight to see them all working as a team as you will see from the photos below.

William B was able to explain the parts of the skeleton. Sarah was looking at a slug she had found with her magnifying glass to see if it had a skeleton or not!



Making a stage in the courtyard!



Making the puppet show set.



Painting the night sky back drop



Using scissor skills to cut out the puppets they made

Year One and Two

To show the knowledge gained in their Dinosaur Topic, all the classes turned their classrooms into Palaeontology Labs for the afternoon and were able to explain all they had learnt about theories of dinosaur extinction, about fossilisation and about dinosaur diets! I was impressed! Thank you to Arlo and Kaycie for explaining how some believe either an asteroid or a volcano killed off the dinosaurs and Emilia D told me all about how some scientists believe the Ice Age caused dinosaurs to become extinct.

Here are some photos from all three classes!



Year Three and Four- As well as a busy week with Harvest Festival, Year Three and Four have also been preparing their recipes for their healthy FairTrade Smoothies that they are making next week to show their learning from Science and Geography this term. This week they have been presenting their information into non-fiction texts and explanations.

I also invited Rayan, Malachi, Jerrold, Sophie H and Darcey to meet our school improvement advisor this week to discuss what they enjoyed about being at our school and to explain the PROUD principles and talk about their learning. It was great to hear them show their understanding of lots of aspects of school life- well done!

Year Five and Six- For their 'Innovate' this week, the classes have been writing campaign speeches about an aspect of social reform in Victorian England, so well done to Alfie G, Jake L, Sophia V, Renee, Layla, Ishan, Emilia W, Lola G, Kaitlyn R, Samina and Annalise for this!

In Maths, Emilia W, Erin, Varsha and Alex had gold stars for their progress in reasoning about fractions- they could all explain to me what they had learnt!

In English, I saw fantastic second drafts of writing from Ben L, Harrison R, Bryce, Ethan J and Anya.

Finally, a special mention to Liviya for her continued exceptional attitude to learning both at home and at school as seen by her extra home learning this week.

Next week is our Humanities Themed Week in Years One to Six...

Before COVID19, we had started a Themed Week every term to allow the children to apply their learning in different contexts and to really ensure they could recall and apply their knowledge. In Autumn Term, our theme is based around the Humanities.

Year Five and Six- they will be looking at the concept of 'Empires' and comparing what they know about the Roman Empire, the Victorian Empire and British Empire as well as gain some new knowledge too.

Year Three and Four - they will be looking at the concept of historical significance and ranking historical figures they have learnt about according to what impact they have had.

Year One and Two- in preparation for their next Topic, the year groups are learning about the monarchy and the structure of royal families and all about different types of castles and who lived in which ones and why.

Football

We had our first Y6 Football match this week v Newton Longville School. Our team played well and represented the school brilliantly. They secured a 1-0 win to go through to the next round. Thank you to Mr Fellows for organising this and also to parents who provided transport. The boys have trained hard as has the whole squad.

Well done to Bryce, Harrison R, Ethan, Jake C, Alessio, Jake M, Josh, Alfie G and Sam H for super teamwork!

We also have a growing number of girls playing football on a Friday afternoon so we are ensuring equality of opportunity for all.

Parents Evening booking....

We are so pleased we can offer face to face parents' evenings again. As a reminder, the Parents' Evenings this term are:

Tuesday 2nd November 5pm-8pm

Thursday 4th November 3:40pm-6:00pm

This term you will get a 10 minute appointment with your child's class teacher to see how they are progressing in class and in sets.

A letter will come home next week with booking information so please look out for that.



HASA

Whilst we know it is lovely to start the weekend with a treat, we have taken on board feedback from some families and from now onwards HASA will also be offering fruit (kindly provided by The Ash Tree) at our weekly playground stalls.

Our balloon race is almost ready to launch and will run throughout half term, regular updates on the leaders will be posted on HASA's Facebook page! A separate email with all the race details will be sent out next week, and Mrs Boyce will discuss it with the children during assembly too. Each balloon costs £3, with the chance to win a £30 Amazon voucher, but as the saying goes - you have to be in it to win it!

We are planning to hold two events at school for the children to enjoy before the end of term, but will need parent volunteers to do so - a Winter Film Night for KS2 on Wednesday 24th November and a Christmas Crafts session for KS1 on Wednesday 1st December - if you are able to help out between 3.30-5pm on either of these dates please email highashschoolassociation@gmail.com or message via the Facebook page, thank you!

Vacancies...

We currently have a vacancy for a school cleaner and a kitchen assistant so if you are interested or know someone who is, then please contact the office for more information!

Diary date reminders...

Thursday 21st October - Whole School Flu Vaccinations

Friday 22nd October - KS2 Star Assembly (No parents)

Monday 25th-Friday 29th October - Half Term (School closed)

Monday 1st November - School open for 2nd Half Autumn Term

Tuesday 2nd November - Parents Evening @ 5.00-8.00pm

Thursday 4th November - Parents Evening @ 3.40-6.00pm

Friday 5th November - Willow Class Assembly (Parents Welcome!)

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

Sara J Boyce

Mrs. Sara Boyce
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