



Where High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter/Blog

Friday 8th October 2021

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



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

It's Friday so here is the newsletter! We have had a great week of learning and lots to share with you as usual.

#### **Parent Forum...**

Thank you to all the parents who came to the open invite Parent Forum this week and it was great to share the current school priorities with those present and to gain feedback and take questions. We talked a lot about our full curriculum and our approach to supporting pupil well-being.

Next half term I will do a mix of face to face and online Parent Forums so we get the best of both worlds. It would also be great to see more male carers at these events so we may have to do something that involves encouraging that!

#### **Harvest...**

Next week, our Year Three and Four children are leading our Harvest Festival celebrations at school and Church. They will be leading the KS2 Reflection in the hall on Monday and then at Church on Wednesday at 1:45pm. It will be lovely to see parents at Church. The Year Three/Four children are linking their Harvest to the 'Feeding of the 5000' and ways in which we can all let our light shine to combat hunger both in the UK and beyond.

#### **Harvest donations and support... tackling food inequality...**

This year, we have been challenging inequality and thinking about how we can make a difference to others. We have looked at hunger and the causes of hunger and what we can do to help in the UK and abroad, including supporting charities like World Vision.

Therefore, this year, the children would like to do the following with your support:

1. To help in the UK, we will be supporting our local food bank and the children would like to collect tins and non-perishable food items. We would like to get more than the 300 cans we got last year if we can- every little helps. We have learnt that food bank usage in the UK has gone up 45% since COVID so more than ever we can make a difference- thank you! Please start bringing in tins from next week to add to our display in the hall! We will be collecting until Weds 20<sup>th</sup> October.
2. To help across the world, we are going to raise money for World Vision and to do this we are asking the children to wear something orange as part of a non-uniform day on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October (last day of half term) and to donate a £1- thank you!

#### **Commando Joes...**

The children are really enjoying this character development programme with our Commando Pete and it is great seeing them develop their resilience. The missions are not easy so they are having to really persevere!

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

Acorns and Saplings (Foundation)- it has been great this week to see so many parents attend our Phonics Workshop so we could share how we teach Phonics here at school. If you missed the session, we have the power point on our website under 'About Us'/'Our Curriculum'/'Reading and Phonics' as well as a video showing a phonics session. Here is the direct link if quicker!

<https://www.highhashschool.co.uk/page/?title=Reading+%26amp%3B+Phonics&pid=16>

The children have based their learning this week on the book 'Super Duper You' by Sophy Henn and have celebrated being unique by looking at fingerprints, painting portraits, making masks and within this developing their fine motor skills! I saw some great fingerprint painting from Ellie, Arthur, Dixie, Zack and Lilah!

Year One and Two - Well done to Chestnut Class this week for their super Sharing Assembly to parents and it was great to welcome parents back into school to see them. They really have been dinosaur explorers!

All of the classes have been preparing to share their knowledge gained on dinosaurs by writing their dinosaur fact files.

Well done to Florence, Freya C and Ava-Rose for sharing their collages with me as they had designed ideal habitats for dinosaurs. Thank you also to Grace H for her hard work with her Topic work. Noah was proud to share his Maths learning with me as he had worked really hard to complete some tricky number problems-wow!

I was also observing Phonics this week and Ethan L was mastering some tricky 'red words' and Mrs Wadeson's group were learning the sound 'oo' and applying it in their writing.

Just to let parents know that Mrs Burrows is now not back in school until the end of her maternity leave in July 2022. She has caught this nasty cold that is going around (fortunately not COVID) and is being advised to rest as her baby is due in about 5 weeks time! I know you will all wish her the very best. She is popping back into school on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October so we will see her then. We will miss her, yet we can't wait to meet Baby Burrows!

Therefore, Mrs Wadeson now fully takes over the helm as her maternity cover for the Assistant Headteacher role for Foundation and Key Stage One and I know she will do a super job too.

Year Three and Four- The main focus this week has been for the children to draft their explanation texts about how food is produced and distributed and I have seen great examples of them applying Topic knowledge. Jessica A and Roseanna came to share their writing with me and I was very impressed!

They are also busy getting ready for their 'Innovate' projects next week and so they have been planning how to make a healthy smoothie that is not only good for you, yet also has a low carbon footprint and is morally ethical by being FairTrade!

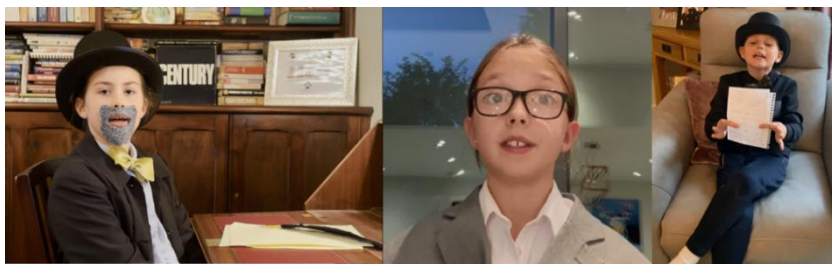
Year Five and Year Six- The children have been super busy this week and have done lots of showcasing of what knowledge they have gained this half term so far and in ways that will help them to remember it! In applying their Science knowledge, they were asked to use their knowledge of circuits and electricity to design a 'light show' in a real life context. Sienna and Isla showed real enthusiasm for this and created a park/playground scene that had lights and fans in it! Here is a photo of their work!



Well done also to the following children who came to me for Gold Stars:

- ✓ In English, Samina, Liviya, Jake C, Varsha, Amelie, Xanthe, Layla, Archie, Shreyan, Polly had written either excellent letters or descriptions
- ✓ In Maths, Amaya, Lola, Michael, Morgan, Alex H and Sam H had worked so hard on multiplication written methods

Finally, Mrs Underwood was impressed with the videos some of the children had created about their Charles Darwin research. They are learning about key Victorian figures and then they will be able to refer back to this when they look at Darwin again in more detail and his theories in a later Topic unit. Well done to Iris, Evie and Harry!



#### **Lottie our Roving Reporter...**

*This week's roving report includes the views of some of the younger children in school - from Foundation, Yr1/2 and Yr3/4. Connie from Foundation is really enjoying her topic lessons about being unique and Georgia liked the maths lesson where the target number was four. Oliver from Yr 1/2 also enjoyed maths learning about column addition and Ryan enjoyed the creative playtimes with his friend. Indie-Rose from Yr 3/4 is enjoying the Scumdiddlyumptious topic, learning about food groups but also understanding more about food poverty and that some people don't have enough food to eat...perhaps not what we'd expect from Scumdiddlyumptious!*

#### **HASA**

Thanks to everyone for supporting our Treat Friday stall in the playground - our Treat Fridays will continue as long as the rain stays away! Our other plans for this term involve Christmas cards, a Festive Film Night for KS2 and Christmas craft session for KS1, along with Christmas jumper sales, Nativity refreshments and the ever-popular Christmas raffle.

Before half term we will launch High Ash's first ever virtual Balloon Race - each balloon costs just £3 and can be purchased using a link which will be sent out in a separate message next week. They will then be launched in a week-long online race, with the winner receiving a £30 Amazon gift voucher. (Please note that this will be a virtual event - in line with the school's environmental ethos no actual balloons will be released).

As ever, all monies raised go directly towards helping High Ash, so please do buy a balloon & good luck to all entrants!

#### **Governors update...**

Just to inform you that this year the Governors have appointed two Co-Chairs of the Governing Body as part of their succession model.

Therefore, our Co-Chairs of Governors are Mrs Victoria Hargreaves and Mrs Kathryn Middleton. Victoria intends to step down as Chair in May 2022 (having served 4 years in this role) and Kathryn will then take up the mantle.

This co-chair model is an equal role so they are both acting as Chairs at present. I am sure they will continue to lead the Governing Body well.

Mr Julian Mitchell was re-elected Vice- Chair.

Details of other Governors and roles can be found on our website in the 'About Us' section which has just been updated today.

#### **Parking reminder...**

A resident could not safely leave their house this week on Pound Hill as a parent had parked their car blocking access to their driveway. Please can I remind parents of the need to park considerately of local residents and to avoid parking in the roads leading up to school as they are very narrow. Instead, please can parents use the Parish Hall car park at the bottom of Rotten Row. Thank you.

***Reminder- Flu Vaccination...***

Flu vaccinations are due to take place in school on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October**. There will be a team of nurses in school all morning on that day. Please ensure you have completed the online booking form either consenting to your child receiving the IM flu vaccine or withdrawing your child. The online consent can be accessed via any online device.

Please click on the following link <https://www.buckschildimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> which will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete. **Please complete the consent form in full by 19/10/2021 and use the following school code: EE110419**

***Diary dates coming up....***

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October @ 1.45pm - Y3/4 Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church (Parents Welcome!)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October @ 2.30pm - Fdn & KS1 Star Assembly (No Parents)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Whole School Flu Vaccinations

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - KS2 Star Assembly (No Parents)

Monday 25<sup>th</sup>-Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - Half Term (School Closed)

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

*Sara J Boyce*

Mrs. Sara Boyce  
Headteacher

[headteacher@highhashschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@highhashschool.co.uk)