



Where High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter/Blog Friday 1st October 2021



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

I hope you have had a good week, have managed to get petrol if needed (!) and have not been too swept away by the rain and wind- welcome to October! I always say how quick time goes by, yet it really does seem that way at the moment.

I have been doing lots of lesson visits this week, talking to pupils about their work and looking at their books with them and I have been really proud to see how much they have learnt and what they can tell me about their learning.

This week we also saw Commando Joe's start with us to support children's resilience and character development; our Charity Leaders did a fantastic job with our Macmillan Coffee Morning; we raised awareness about world hunger in our Reflections and our older children started as Play Leaders with Foundation-all in a week's work! We will let you know how much money we raised for Macmillan in next week's newsletter!

Parent Forum next week...

There is lots I would like to share with parents about school priorities and also get your input on, so I really hope many of you can make our half termly **Parent Forum next week, Wednesday 6th October at 9am and repeated at 6pm.** It will be in school for the first time since COVID and I am looking forward to the fact we can finally meet face to face for a coffee, biscuits and school updates. If you have not yet booked a place, please click on the link below to book by 10am the 3rd October.

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

Parent Forum is an open invite to all parents so I hope to see you then!

Any problems booking a place, please contact the office to book for you.

Reading Books in Foundation and Year One...

Just to clarify, for children in Foundation and Year One- they will be coming home with two reading books. One book (and for Foundation this will be in a few weeks when they have learnt enough sounds) will be a their Book Bag Book linked to the phonics they know. This is the book your child will read to you as it is based on sounds they know. This is the same as we have done previously.

They will also bring home a library book that they have chosen that they would like an adult to read to them. This is important to develop their love of reading as well as their language development. Foundation have already started this and Year One children will be starting this up from next week after their library time.

Macmillan Coffee Morning...

Thank you to all the parents who made cakes and came to our coffee morning at school today, run by our volunteer Charity Leaders in Y5/6. We have raised £347 so far in cash and more through the online use of the QR code- that is amazing and we have really let our light shine on others. Our roving reporter Lottie has interviewed some of the Charity Leaders and this is what they had to say.

'This week we held the Macmillan coffee morning at school and lots of people helped make cakes at home ready to donate. Alfie made chocolate cakes and enjoyed being creative with icing, Tom helped make a lemon cake and liked licking the spoon and Bobbi enjoyed making the cakes to help other people. Isabel is one of our Charity Leaders and said it was lots of fun helping out at the coffee morning and worthwhile giving her time for a good cause. I hope you enjoyed the cakes if you came to the coffee morning!'



Thank you to the Y5/6 Charity Leaders who are: Ava, Harvey, Lola, Kaitlyn, Ayrtton, Sienna, Georgia, Isla, Jack, Jake, Alex, Alfie G, Beau, Amelie, Morgan, Shreyan, Ishan, Varsha, Sakhile, Angelina, Renee, Lucy, Emilia, Luca, Nicole, Isabel, Iris, Sophia, Maha, Luca and Layla.

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns and Saplings- The learning this week has been focused around the 'Colour Monster' and the children have looked at how to mix colours by experimenting with mixing paints to create their own monsters. Thank you to Dixie and Annabella for sharing what colours they made! Frankie and Amelia T enjoyed telling me about their learning and for recognising colours and numbers when counting. This week the children have been exploring their understanding of the number 3 and also finding out how many different ways they can make 3.

I also saw their Phonics sessions this week and all the groups have quickly settled into their routines and already have learnt lots of initial sounds!

As a reminder to Foundation parents, we have our **Phonics Workshop for parents next Tuesday 5th October at 9am and repeated again at 6pm**. It really is a key information session, so we hope as many of you can attend as possible. If you not already booked a place, please **click on the link below to book by 10am the 3rd October**. Any problems, please contact the office to book a place for you.

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

With regards to reading, as mentioned above and also at the Reading Workshop, Reception have started to bring home library books for parents to read to them at home to help develop your child's language and also love of reading! It maybe that some of you may like to read the 'Colour Monster' with your children as it will now be familiar to them.

Year One and Two- I have seen lots of super learning this week from all classes and I have been impressed with their dinosaur knowledge and fact files. They have also been able to explain to me about carnivores, herbivores and theropods which has built on their learning on dinosaurs from when they were in Foundation. They will be going on to learn about how dinosaurs became extinct!

Well done to Yana, Josephine, Sebastian B, James, William, Eden, Aaliyah, Alyan, Logan, Algernon and Tatenda for their hard work and effort into their non-fiction writing on dinosaurs and I could really see progress in all of their writing!

In Maths, Theo, Charlie, Jad and William had impressed their teacher with their problem solving in Maths using number bonds to 10 and 20- super effort! Fabian and Summer also came to share their Maths learning too and very proud they were as well!

Next week, Year One children will also be bringing home a reading book for you to read to your child as well as the reading book they have linked to their phonics. Thank you for supporting us at home with this.

Year Three and Four- The children are working so hard in Year Three and Four and every time I go to classes they are so engaged in their learning. Thank you to Roman, Eliza, Alfie K, Darcey, Jerrold, Sophie H, Gianna, Thomas, Miles, Alfie M who did a fantastic job in telling me and Mrs Goodger all about their learning in Topic and in English and about their class novel- wow!

Some of the Year Three/Four children worked with Commando Pete this week as you can see from these photos!



In Guided Reading, the children have been developing their comprehension skills by having to work out the questions from the answers they were given! Miss Woods sent Alissa and Roman with Gold Stars as they had persevered with this and really worked hard!

In RE this week, the classes have been reflecting on how to care for the environment as God intended. Here are some photos from the RE lessons of the children putting this message into action!



Year Five and Six- I also enjoyed spending time with children from all three classes to find out about their learning so far this term and how they could link it to learning from previous years. Thank you to Amaya, Jenson, Ben, Sam, Lucy, Jacob, Mollie, Jake, Jack B, Harry, Alex H, Archie, Samina, Laurence and Isabella who were able to talk to me about how they draft and redraft their writing in English and all about the key inventors and reformers they had learnt about in Victorian England!

Bryce and Ayrton had gold stars for their reasoning skills in Maths solving 'Always, Sometimes, Never True' statements linked to factors and multiples. The classes were also completing an online maths challenge so they could apply their knowledge of this and also recall quickly their times table knowledge to help them. Xanthe was working on the subtraction written method and had written a very detailed explanation on how she had arrived at her answer! I am very proud of you all!

Last but by no means least, Peter and Dylan had gold stars for great improvement in their handwriting!



Thank you for your support and letting your light shine at our MacMillan Coffee Morning....

Our school is such a great community and the spirit of this was captured this week in our MacMillan Coffee Morning! From the hard work of our Charity Leaders, to the families who baked so many cakes and to the parents/carers who came along and made a donation- thank you all for letting your light shine on this great cause. In our Reflections this week, we have once again returned to the message of the Good Samaritan and about how one small good deed can have such a huge difference- this event really does sum that up.

Thinking ahead to Harvest...

Our Year/Three and Four children will be taking our Harvest Service in Church this year, with the rest of school celebrating at school. As a reminder, the diary date for our **Harvest Service is Wednesday 13th October @ 1.45pm** and parents are welcome too. This year our Harvest theme is linked to the Oxford Diocesan campaign for 'Be The Change' linked to challenging inequality in the world and we are looking at this in the context of aiming to reduce hunger in not only the UK but the wider world. We are also linking this to our learning on Fair Trade which the Year Three/Four classes have been learning about this half term and linking it to the 'Feeding of the 5000' in the Bible.

Clubs....

We are working back up to being able to offer activities either at lunchtime or after school from after half term. Most of the activities run by staff will now be at a lunchtime as it means we can include more children who cannot always attend after school. These activities remain free of course!

Mrs Gray will be starting up choir again after school for up to 30 KS2 children and Miss Buckingham will be starting a KS1 Choir at lunchtime. We will be offering other sports activities at lunchtime too. Commando Joe will have an after school club (currently by invitation) and we are in the process of sourcing an Art Club and a Dance Club so watch this space! We will still be providing sports coaches for WRAP after school as part of the WRAP offer and included in the price, as this has proved popular and gets the children active in a wider range of physical activity.

Watch this space for more details as we get them and as I say, the aim is to start after half term.

Staffing news...

As you know, Mrs Walker was back in school briefly between treatment phases and it has been so good to see her again. She has also enjoyed being back at work too doing some cover work in Year Five and Six. She has now got her date for her Phase 2 treatment and so will be off school again for the next few months to have this and also to recover. I am sure you join me and the school in wishing her well and sending our best wishes to her. I know she has appreciated everyone's kindness.

Job vacancy at school...

Do you know someone who could be our next Second Chef in the Ash Tree? As you know, Jess is leaving at the end of this half term and we are now advertising for someone for the role to work in our lovely kitchen. If you are aware of someone with relevant qualifications and who could deputise as school chef, then please contact the office for application details. It is a great job to fit round families as of course there is no requirement to work in school holidays.

COVID reminders...

As we are moving into the season of coughs and colds, please could I remind parents that if your child has any of the COVID symptoms that even though you feel it may only be a cold, then we do request a PCR test to confirm it is negative. It is going to be a tricky one to manage as children at this time of year do get colds. We have had a few children with colds at present who have had negative results, so we know colds are going round, yet we still need to be cautious and test for COVID. Thank you for your support. If your child's test is negative, they can of course return to school if well.

And finally, an update from HASA...

Can you believe we were selling out of ice lollies only a week ago?! Treat Fridays return next week with different delights to start the weekend. We are planning plenty of other fundraising events this term and will share details with you all soon. Watch this space and thank you for your support!

You will have also seen the new canopy that is in the KS1 garden area- many thanks to HASA donations for this. It allows us some shelter for this outdoor learning space and over the next couple of weeks

we are going to be adding more resources for the children and we also intend to set up our own vegetable patch!

Diary date reminders...

Wednesday 6th October - Parent Forum with Mrs Boyce at 9am and repeated at 6pm

Thursday 7th October - Open Morning for new Reception Parents starting in Sept 2022. Viewings must be booked.

Friday 8th October - Chestnut Class Assembly - Parents are welcome to come.

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

Sara J Boyce

Mrs. Sara Boyce

Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk