



Where High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter/Blog Friday 24th September 2021



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

It has been another busy yet productive week at school and I have been really impressed with how many children I have seen for good work!

There is quite a bit to cover in this week's newsletter so please do keep reading on to find out what is going on and coming up next week too.

Learning highlights this week...

What the children have to say...

Once again, Lottie (our roving reporter) has been out and about asking the children about their learning this week....

As it comes to the end of September, I have collected students' thoughts about their first few weeks of term. Francesca and Sarah from Foundation have told me how they have settled in. Francesca said she enjoys playing outside and doing arts and crafts in their classroom and Sarah likes the phonics they have started to learn in class. From Year 1/2, William has told me he is happy when he is helping people and when he is with his classmates. Roman from Year 3/4 likes his teachers in all classes especially maths. Finally, from Year 5/6, Ava loves singing in her music lessons...it is great to hear people's lovely singing voices back in school!

Learning around the school...

Acorns and Saplings (Foundation)- It has been great to see the children settling in well to the daily routines and they now know their morning jobs about where to put their water bottles and diaries! They are doing so well at lunchtime in the Ash Tree and knowing how to line up and listen out for the bell at the end of playtime. Some of our Year Five/Six children have been helping them at lunch play and organising games for them which has created a real sense of community and good role models.

This week the teachers have been working hard to baseline each child to assess their starting points in communication, language, literacy and maths and it has been a super opportunity to really get to know the children even more.

As well as that, we have started phonics this week with the children and they will have started to bring home a sheet each day with the sound they have learnt to practise. I have even seen some of the children have a go at mark marking with the new sounds and well done to Maggie and Rupert for letting me see their super work! They had made a leaflet all about themselves and had a go at labelling it as well.

The highlight for me was seeing the children take part in the 'Pen Disco' in the hall! They worked in groups with a large roll of paper and colouring pens and made marks on the sheet in time to disco music! It was a great way to get them into enjoying mark making and also assess their motor skills.





Thank you also to the parents who attended our Foundation Parents Workshop this week about how we teach reading, phonics, maths and other curriculum areas as well as the format of the school day. As promised, we have the date of our Phonics Parents Workshop, so please read on in the newsletter to find out when this is and how to sign up as it is a really important session to attend!

Year One and Two- Thank you to the children who have been to see me with their great learning in Maths this week. I can see how hard you have been working on your number facts and using these to solve number puzzles- well done Daisy, Cleo, Lara, Ethan M, Demi, Azalea, Florence, Raphael for this!

I also saw excellent Maths from Callum, Leo C, Christopher and Sebastian S- keep up the good work!

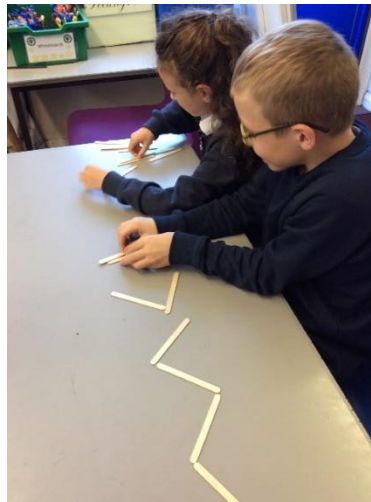
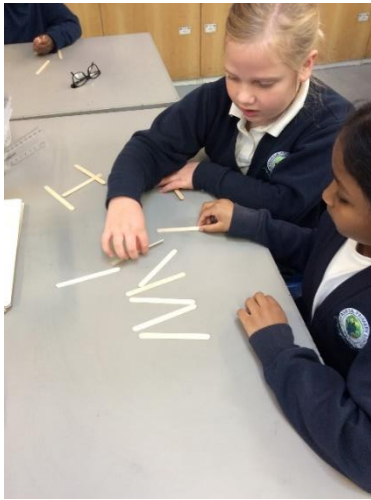
In KS1 Reflections this week, I have been really pleased to see how well the children are able to explain their understanding of the parable of the Good Samaritan and they sang beautifully too.

Year Three and Four-



In Year 3 and 4 this week, the children have been enjoying their PE lessons playing hockey. They have been learning the key skills of dribbling, passing and tackling.

In maths, they have been learning all about Roman numerals and understanding what each symbol represents. Here are the children speed-making numbers in Roman numerals using lolly sticks!



A special mention goes to Roseanna, Eliza, Blythe and Max for their Maths too this week and I saw great work from Malachi, Harrison H, Jacob R-A, Emma L and Gianna for their writing- I am very proud of you all! Last week, Owen, Max, Oliver, Amelie, Miles and Jerrold wrote excellent setting descriptions working well as a group to do this.

Well done also to Holly Class for their Sharing Assembly to their parents this week! It is wonderful to be able to have an audience again.

Year Five and Six- Having gained knowledge about key social reforms in Victorian England, the children have been writing campaign speeches by Suffragettes. I really enjoyed reading those written by Nicole, Laurence, Ayrton, Alfie F and Hollie and also saw super writing from Isabella, Ava and Liviya.

The children are also learning how to draft and re-draft their writing to improve its purpose and effect on the reader. I have seen this impact on writing progress with Beau, Herbert, Bryce, Amaya, Erin, Ben L, Georgia and Nelka- wow!

Oscar produced an amazing model and information about working life in Victorian England and the children also drew some posters to highlight the Suffragette movement.



Phonics Workshop- for Foundation Parents and any new Year One parents...

Miss Little, our Phonics Leader, will be running a Phonics Parents workshop on **Tuesday 5th October at 9am and then repeated at 6pm**. It will be in the hall and she will model a Phonics lesson for parents as well as going through all the sounds we teach, how to pronounce them and how to support your child at home with the key resources you will need. It really is a key session to attend so we hope you can make it! Please click on the link below to book your space. **Please ensure when logging in, you use your child's registration class, ie., Acorns, Saplings etc. as it will not recognise your child's year group.** Any problems, please email the office for help. Thank you.

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

Reminder - Photo Consent...

Thank you to all parents that have completed and submitted their Google Consent form. If you have not yet done this, please do by clicking on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfT-NrYzV_EQ0k4eRE9xAUEQFJNmuOaKy3NGJ8CLbThEStrqw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Reminder - Consent Form for School Trips and other Off-Site Activities...

Thank you to all parents that have completed and submitted their Google form. If you have not yet done this, please do by clicking on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0AZaXqLI4Q9iRVTmVvnUEwcAsqAx3Gj38W41Pp4vvq8Yvjg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Your prompt response with completing and submitting both the above Google forms would be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Website updates...

We have just updated some of our website information pages and also added in our updated policies for this academic year, so please take a look- especially if you are a new parent to our school.

Commando Joe's Character Development Programme...

As part of our package that we provide as a school for personal development and well-being, this year we have bought into the Commando Joe's Character programme which is focused on developing resilience and self-esteem. It is an educational character programme run by army veterans who will work with the children on teamwork, co-operation and respect whilst solving various 'missions' linked to inspirational characters from real life. The children work to then solve problems such as how to cross a river with only certain equipment as well as a range of practical problem solving skills. Our Commando is Commando Pete and he was in school this week to meet the children. He will be in every Thursday this academic year and will be starting work with KS2 this term. He will also be around at playtimes and lunchtimes to engage the children in teamwork activities. If you would like more information on Commando Joe's, then you can visit their website here:

<https://commandojoes.co.uk/>

Support our MacMillan Coffee Morning Friday 1st October from drop off to 10:00am in The Ash Tree...



Our Charity Leaders in Y5/6 are letting their light shine by organising the Macmillan Coffee Morning to which we would love parents to come along and support this good cause with a coffee and some cake! All donations will go to this charity.

If you would like to bake cakes for the morning, then please could you bring them to school on **Thursday 30th September** (the day before the coffee morning) so we can set up the night before ready for 8:30am on the Friday. We hope as many of you choose to help as possible. If you do wish to bake, please note the following:

- Any cakes, biscuits or cookies will be gratefully received- **just please ensure they are nut free.**
- Please bring them in a sealed airtight container that has your name on so we can return it to you
- If you are making allergy free cakes, then please list all ingredients- thank you!

The Charity Leaders will be on hand to serve tea and coffee supported by school staff.

Any cakes that are left will be on sale at the end of the school day!

In line with COVID19 restrictions, please only attend if you are well and there will be good ventilation in the restaurant area. If you would rather just pop in to buy a cake then that is fine too!

Staffing news...

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Walker is now back at school as she is well enough to be in work in between her treatments. She is teaching afternoons in Year Five and Six and I am sure you may well see her at pick up some of these afternoons.

Jess, our Commis Chef in the Ash Tree, has decided to move on to pastures new and so will be leaving us this half term. She has been at our school for six years and we thank her for her work at the school over this time.

School Lunches...

We're all enjoying having hot meals served in the Ash Tree again. It's a delight to see the children sitting in the dining and chatting away about their morning while they eat their lunch. The meals have been very popular, especially the return of the Mid-Week Roast and the children are loving the homemade fruit crumbles. We are lucky to have our own kitchen on site and to have freshly prepared lunches each day. Some of the new children who joined High Ash September have been saying we have the best school meals they have ever had, so that's been really pleasing to hear.

Census Day is coming up soon on **Thursday 7th October** - this is the day when Government asks us to count the number of children having a school meal. This is really important as it forms the basis of the grant funding we receive. If you have children in Foundation or Years 1/2, please book a meal on this day and help us avoid losing out on the funding we're entitled to for your child.

Don't forget, if you have any queries about the meals served then don't hesitate to contact Michelle, our Head Chef, and she will do her very best to help.

Reflections this week...

I have been delighted with the interest there has been in being a Reflection Leader and we now have our Reflection Leader committee as well as a team of Reflection Leaders to support them. Following elections, our Reflection Leader Committee is Anya, Lottie, Libby, Laurence, Finley and Sam H. They have already helped me to plan the Reflections this half term linked to the Oxford Diocese campaign of '#bethechange'. The other Reflection Leaders will take it in turns to support them. Next week's Reflections are going to be outside and interactive!

These are the church links from YouTube this week for families to share:

Reflection & Prayer:- <https://youtu.be/7ABYwn0KwQs>

"Be Like Me!":- <https://youtu.be/ZKvO00FCgRI>



HASA Update...

Thank you to everyone who enjoyed the ice lollies available last week & today, especially as they were far stickier than anticipated! We will not be running a Treat Friday stall next week, Friday 1st October, as there will already be plenty of cake on offer, but we will return to the playground on Friday 8th October and hope to see you there.

Reminder - Diary Dates...

Friday 1st October - KS2 Star Assembly (school only, no parents)

Friday 1st October - McMillan Coffee Morning from morning drop off to 10am - All Welcome!

Tuesday 5th October - Phonics Workshop for Fdn and new Year 1 Parents at 9am and repeated at 6pm (Please book a space online - see link above)

Wednesday 6th October - Parent Forum with Mrs Boyce at 9am and repeated at 6pm - All Welcome! (Please book a space online using the same link above)

Thursday 7th October - School Census Day (Fdn to Year 2 Funding, please support us by booking your child a hot school meal on this day)

Thursday 7th October - Open Morning for new Reception parents September 2022 at 9.30am, 10.30am and 11.30am. Prospective parents must call the office to book a time slot

Friday 8th October - Chestnut Class Assembly - Parents Welcome!

I said it was a long newsletter yet it is good to have a lot to say as it means we are busy living life to the full!

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

Sara J Boyce

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Headteacher

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