



# High Ash CE School

## Weekly Newsletter/Blog

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

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



## Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Welcome back to the new academic year and hopefully a closer return to normality. I still feel though we will have to wait and see how things pan out regarding COVID19 over the coming weeks. We will move forward with cautious confidence and follow our contingency plan if needed.

Please ensure that you have read all the information regarding latest COVID19 guidance for schools emailed home earlier this week. It is also on our website.

#### *Welcome back everyone...*

The key highlight this week has been to see the children back in school and experiencing more or less the type of school they are used to, now we no longer have to have bubbles or other restrictions.

We also welcomed many new children to our school so that we currently have 311 on roll and are pretty much full in all year groups.

You will also see that the swimming pool has gone and we have also been able to extend one of our Year Five/Six classrooms so we can have a larger classroom for Maple. We have had lots of areas repainted inside and the library has also been re configured so school is looking good!

#### *New Foundation children...*

Starting school for the first time is such a special milestone for the children and it was wonderful to see our new Acorns and Saplings classes begin their settling in sessions with us this week. It was also good to be able to involve parents with this too, which we have not been able to do during COVID.

#### *Reading and Maths Information Session for new Foundation parents...*

We feel it is important that parents can get to understand how reading and maths are taught in Foundation and how the overall curriculum works. Therefore we are inviting new Foundation Parents to an information session in school led by myself, Mrs Burrows (Asst Head for Foundation) and also one of the teaching team. There will be a session at 9am and then repeated at 6pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September in the school hall.

To book a place, please click on the following link:

[highash.schoolcloud.co.uk](https://highash.schoolcloud.co.uk)

#### *If your child is new to our school in Years One to Six...*

We are delighted to have so many new children in all year groups join our school and they will be supported by their class teacher and class mates to settle in. I am aware that as a new parent, despite looking at our website, that it may be useful to want to come into school and chat to me about how school works, how we communicate home, how our curriculum works etc. and so I will be having an informal coffee and catch up with any new parents on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 9am in the hall. If you wish to attend, please click on the link below to book a place:

[highash.schoolcloud.co.uk](https://highash.schoolcloud.co.uk)

### *Reading books reminder...*

The children will start to bring reading books home in Key Stage Two from next week. For Year One and Two, the children are having phonics assessments next week, so they will have a reading book from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

As for Foundation children, we will explain how reading books work at the information session mentioned above and when you can start to expect reading books to come home.

### *Diary Dates attached to this newsletter...*

I have attached diary dates for this academic year to this newsletter so you can use to plan ahead.

As mentioned in my letter this week, parents will be invited to your child's Class Assembly, however Star Assemblies will still remain just for school only at this stage.

The format of the class assembly is that your child's class will share their learning with you in the hall and then there is a chance for parents to visit the classroom and look at your child's books with them.

Parents will be invited to attend Nativities, Church services, Christmas Tree Walk and also other key performances and Sports Day, so please note these in your diary. These may be subject to change should any COVID restrictions need to be reintroduced. Fingers crossed though that we can do as much as planned.

### *Curriculum Overviews....*

You will have received this week via email the Curriculum Overviews for all year groups in KS1 and KS2. They are also on our website, so please take a look to see the topics your child will be covering over the next half term.

### *PE Kit...*

We are still asking that children come to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE. This helps us to ensure we can maintain COVID guidance. The PE days for your child are in their planner and we will text home if there are any changes.

### *Uniform reminders*

As you know, we have high standards at High Ash and that includes uniform. We have worked hard to reduce the amount of branded uniform needed and so most uniform can be bought inexpensively at local shops; the only branded item we stipulate is the school jumper or cardigan.

Please can you ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform, including for PE. We will not be accepting non-uniform clothing. Also please ensure that hair is ideally tied up with a blue or black fastening. Hairbands are allowed, yet should be subtle without large bows and must be navy. All hair accessories should be school colours.

If children have short hair, then shaved patterns in hair are not part of our school uniform. May I also remind parents that children should not wear nail varnish. Thank you for your support with this as it is important children understand the need for appropriate dress for school as this prepares them for later life and the world of work.

### *Transfer test reminder...*

Next Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> we are administering the Grammar School Transfer test on behalf of Bucks grammar schools. Tuesday morning is the practice test and Thursday morning is the main actual test. If you have let us know in writing that you have withdrawn your child from the test they will still need to be in school as we have activities planned for them to do instead of the test. We start the tests about 9am so it is important children are in school on time.

If after the practice test, you do not wish your child to sit the main test, then please inform us of this in writing.

If you wish your child to bring their own stationery for the test, they will need 2 pencils (these must be HB or softer) and an eraser. We also provide these in school. Please do not send your child in with

a clicker pencil as they are not permitted as they do not show up well on the test paper. Your child will not be able to wear any smart watch in the test so please advise them of this.

If your child is not well, they should not sit the test and we can talk to Bucks about rescheduling. If your child takes the test and becomes unwell during the test, they will be cared for; however they will not be able to be given any extra time for the test.

Any questions- please just ask.

*Update from our HASA committee...*

*Hello to all High Ash families from HASA, we have plenty of fundraising plans for this term and hope you will be able to join us and get involved! Our AGM at the end of the Summer Term confirmed that we raised enough to fund the new all-weather canopy, which is fantastic, thank you for your support.*

*If your child has shot up over the summer holidays you'll be glad to know that (weather permitting) we will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale in the playground next Friday 10th September at pickup - if you cannot make it then but wish to purchase something, please email [highashschoolassociation@gmail.com](mailto:highashschoolassociation@gmail.com) - this is also the address to use if you have suggestions or wish to join the Committee. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't have the time for monthly meetings but could help out at an occasional event please let us know, volunteers are always needed.*

Think that is all for the first two days back!

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

*Sara J Boyce*

Mrs. Sara Boyce  
Headteacher

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