High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter/Blog

Friday 10th September 2021

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

It is hard to believe that this has been just the first full week of school this term as it seems we have been back a lot longer already...in a good way I should add!

The children are getting settled back into routines and the whole remit of school life that we can offer again.

Learning Highlights this week….

Acorns and Saplings (Foundation)- A huge well done to all of our new Foundation children for how well they have settled into their sessions this week, ready for starting full time on Monday. It was lovely to share in their excitement of starting school and posing for photos on the playground.

They have enjoyed exploring the learning environment, listening to stories being read to them and having a tour round the school! The teachers have already started to informally baseline the children and have been sampling their phonics knowledge. This is important as phonics is the cornerstone of learning within our early years as it is the key to teaching reading.

As a reminder, we will be holding a Parent Information session about reading, Maths and the curriculum for Reception on **Tuesday 21st September at 9am and then repeated at 6pm**. This is a key source of information so we hope you can attend - it is for parents only. If you wish to sign up, please click on this link https://highash.schoolcloud.co.uk/. When entering your details, it is sensitive and will only recognise the data we hold on our SIMS pupil database which is entered with the information you provided within your admission forms. When entering your child's registration class, please ensure you enter either Acorns or Saplings class. Please email the office if you are experiencing difficulties booking a place. Thank you.

Year One and Two-

There was a lot of excitement this week as we had Dinosaurs come to visit us in the hall!
We had 'DinoGirl Kay' in to talk to the children, where the children learnt about the different features of dinosaurs. They also learnt about fossils and how dinosaurs became extinct. The children did a sand dig to hunt for bones and fossils. They have also analysed dinosaur poo to see if they were a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore!

Year Three and Four-

For their Hook Day to start their 'Scrumdidilyumptious' topic they have been reading 'Charlie and The Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. They had a go at making their own sweets worthy of Willy Wonka's approval!

Here are some photos of Y3/4 making their chocolate treats! They arrived in the classroom to a golden ticket from Mr Willy Wonka and were invited to create their own tantalising treat that wouldn't look out of place next to his Fudgemallow Delight! They loved designing and making the chocolate products.

Year Five and Six-

Here is a quick round up of learning in Year Five and Six this week!

- Social experiment: Our teachers took on the role of someone who was prejudice against eye colour. Some of us got treated unfairly and didn't have as much fun! This got us to think about how their discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion, identity, appearance and race exists in the world.
- Historical time line: In groups, we ordered key periods in order and added facts.
- Blue plaques: We learnt about the significance of blue plaques and how 4% of the 1000 plaques in London currently represent people who are of Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME).
- We then designed a blue plaque for a Victorian or for someone who may be entitled to one in the future ☺

Thoughts on the week from our pupils…

Thank you to Lottie for having the idea to write a paragraph on the week from the children's perspective! This week she interviewed some Year Five/Six children.

'Iris said that she really liked the southern fried chicken served in the Ash Tree on the first day back at school and Amelie said the Ash Tree was very nice and full of natural light and she was pleased to be there for lunch. Year Five/Six have been learning about electrical circuits. Emilia, Lola G and Evie all said they enjoyed building circuits with switches, bulbs and fans. We have done some fantastic artwork this week too, using cotton buds to make dot art. Bobbi said she had lots of fun making the artwork and she was really impressed with her final creation.'

Reading books…

As a reminder, KS1 children will be coming home with reading books next week so look out for these in the book bags as usual and please can you record any reading at home in the home/school diary.

Reminder - New Parents with pupils in Years One to Six…

I will be holding an informal coffee morning and catch up with new parents on Wednesday 22nd September at 9am in the hall. We will be chatting about how school works, how we communicate home, how our curriculum works etc. If you wish to attend please click on this link https://highash.schoolcloud.co.uk/. When entering your details, it is sensitive and will only recognise the data we hold on our SIMS pupil database which is entered with the information you provided within your admission forms. When entering your child's registration class, please ensure you enter the class your child is registered in, i.e., Cedar, Holly, Willow etc. Please email the office if you are experiencing difficulties booking a place. Thank you.

WRAP update…

Our before and after school wraparound care has started well again and it is wonderful to be able to operate the way we did pre COVID as this really maximises support to our families who need this service.

In fact, we have added to our provision this year and we are now employing a dedicated Sports Coach three nights a week to offer sports to the children at WRAP to widen their access to clubs they may not be able to attend otherwise and also keep us healthy too! This is all included in the WRAP price as we fund this offer from our PE Premium funding. The children are really enjoying this!

HASA update…

Next Friday 17th September HASA will be on the playground at pick up selling refreshments. Come along to meet some of the team! Please keep an eye out for further details of events HASA will be running this term. We really hope you'll be able to support us.

Reflections this week…

As we are now back in the hall for Reflections as whole key stages, we have spent this week with the children agreeing the format of our daily reflections linked to our vision of letting our light shine. We are going to be holding elections for our Reflection Leaders for this term next week from KS2.

I have also had lots of interest from children who wish to live out our parable of the Good Samaritan and be Charity Leaders - more on this later.

Church links…

Here are the recent YouTube links from the church which you may wish to share with your children as a family.

- Reflection & Prayer:- https://youtu.be/b1gZEvSt0qc
- "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector":- https://youtu.be/_Vk_FUiUieA

Next week…

Just to let you know that I am in London next week on a course (the information from which our school will greatly benefit). I will still be checking in with school each day and also answering emails so I remain fully contactable if parents need to get hold of me. Mrs Goodger (Deputy Head) will deputise in my absence, ably supported by Mrs Burrows, Mrs Underwood and Mrs Wadeson as Assistant Heads.

Diary Dates…

Friday 17th September – Fdn and KS1 Star Assembly at 2.30pm (School only, no parents)
Tuesday 21st September – Fdn Parents Reading/Maths and Curriculum Information Session in the hall at 9am & repeated at 6pm
Wednesday 22nd September – New Parents (Years One to Six) Informal coffee and update with Mrs Boyce in the hall at 9am
Friday 24th September – Holly Class Assembly (Parents are welcome)

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

Sara J Boyce

Mrs. Sara Boyce
Headteacher

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