



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 14th July 2023



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Wow - what a year it has been. I am taking the opportunity to share some of our many successes with you. I won't apologise for this mammoth edition as there is so much we want to share with you.

Our successes...

Here is our headline data for our school:

Foundation Stage - Early Learning Goals

2019	2022	2023
89%	78%	89.7%

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

	2022	2023
Score 20+	66%	74%
Mean score	20	21

Key stage 2 - SATs headline results

	2023 SATs data Expected Standard	National data comparison 2023 Expected Standard	2022 SATs data Expected Standard	2023 Greater Depth Standard	Average scaled score
GPS	78%	72%	69%	29%	105
Reading	83%	73%	78%	51%	109
Writing	80%	71%	67%	27%	
Maths	85%	73%	78%	17%	105
Combined	73%	59%	60%	10%	

Academically we have achieved above National levels in all subjects in Key stage 2 and have improved on last year's scores. The children have worked incredibly hard over the year along with the teachers and learning support assistants. I am very proud of this data this year as High Ash has seen a lot of change. Half our classes are finishing the year with a different teacher to the one they started with in September. We have been incredibly lucky, in the current educational climate, to have been able to recruit excellent practitioners to replace those teachers who have moved on. It is testament to the strong curriculum that is in place that new teachers are up to speed and know the high expectations and aspirations we have for all our children. Team High Ash continue to be committed to providing the very best education for your children.

School Games Mark - Gold Award

High Ash has had an extremely successful sporting year! As a result of our hard work, we have achieved the Gold Award for the School Games Mark. Many aspects of sporting life at High Ash were considered, from the participation at after school clubs, our play leaders at lunchtimes, the MK Dons Women's' FC event, our involvement in a number of sporting festivals and competitions across the year in addition to our PE curriculum in school. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the hard work and commitment from children, staff and parents throughout this year.



Athletic success...

Our final sporting competition of the year was the Aylesbury Vale Primary School Athletics Association Championships. This was held on the 5th July at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. The High Ash KS2 student representatives were fantastic competitors who demonstrated respect towards the other schools and determination within their events. There were sixteen schools attending in total, and we were against eight (much bigger) schools in the area. As a result of their hard work, the High Ash Team came **first!** A huge well done to all involved and a massive thank you to all the parents who came and supported!



Music concert...

Last Thursday, a fantastic music concert was held where the audience were entertained for an hour and a half with exceptional pieces from solo musicians, pianists, singers and dancers, duets and of course our superb choir. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate all our children's talents. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Pirates of the Curry bean...

This week we have been entertained with the Year 5 and 6 Production of, 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' - the acting was super, the wit and humour had the audience chuckling, the dances were very entertaining and the singing was beautiful - it was like a West End production. Well done Year 5 and 6!

Learning highlights this week....

There has been super learning in class this week, here are some of the highlights.

Acorns -

Acorns have continued their work on plastic and waste and the problems this causes in the ocean. We revisited our story 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' and watched some videos about the problems plastic and waste causes for sea birds called Gannets and for seals and their babies on our UK beaches. Inspired by this, we completed an experiment where we found out what happens to synthetic fabrics made from plastic like our school jumpers and tights when they are washed in a washing machine and how microscopic bits of plastic get into our oceans. We also sorted waste and talked about recycling and reusing our waste. Acorns have also reviewed and consolidated our

learning about addition and subtraction. We have applied this by playing the bus stop game and adding and subtracting people on our buses independently in provision.

Next week we will be completing our work on ocean and comparing it to our habitat in school and what animals live here! We will be having an exciting enrichment morning visit from Jane and Hilary from the Greensand Trust on Wednesday 19th July to do a morning all about Minibeasts! We will be using our new Forest School area and our outside area 'The Garden'.

Mrs Bird

Year One and Two-

In the past two weeks, our KS1 children have been on a journey to tackle plastic pollution in our oceans. They have spent time learning about the dangers of plastic pollution and their knowledge and dedication have led them to plan persuasive letters, urging companies to stop using single-use plastics. They have developed their skills in using persuasive sentence openers, rhetorical questions, backed by compelling facts about the long-lasting impact of plastics on our environment.

Understanding the consequences of plastic pollution, our children have learned about the terrible effects on marine life and their habitats. Using their knowledge and skills they have spent time this week planning their letter to include suggestion of how the companies could solve this problem with a range of solutions such as, recycling, reusing and reducing. Over the next week the children will be writing their letters that will showcase their ideas and passion which they have.

Mathematical Marvels and Doubled Delights

In our math classes, Year Two have delved into the world of three-dimensional shapes, utilising resources to construct and explore these marvellous geometrical wonders. Meanwhile, in Year One, our young learners have been mastering the art of doubling numbers up to 50, by skilfully partitioning these numbers into tens and ones, doubling the tens, doubling the ones, and adding them back together.

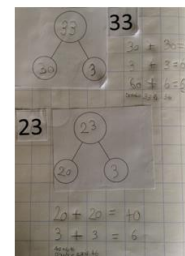
After all of our hard work in our Fish, Fins and Gills topic we would love to **invite all parents in to see our Innovate aquariums on Tuesday 18th at 8:40**. Please come into the classroom at drop off and be amazed by our brilliant expert's knowledge and see how our classrooms have been transformed into our very own High Ash aquariums.

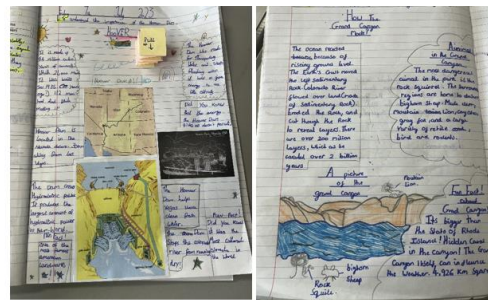
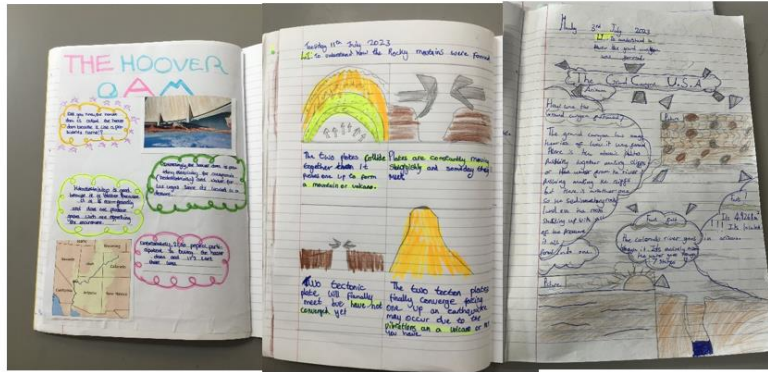
Mrs Boyd

Year Three and Four-

What an amazing term we have had in Year 3 and 4!

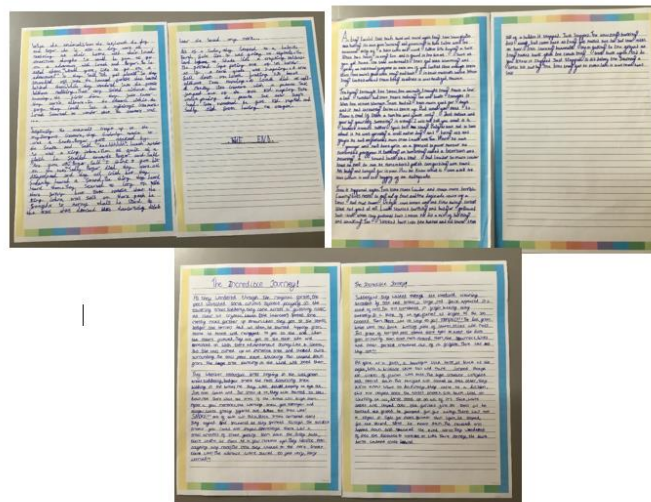
The children have thoroughly enjoyed their topic called 'Road Trip USA' where they have been learning about the many physical and human features of the United States of America. They have explored where the 52 states are and where the locations of famous landmarks are located. We have been incredibly proud of the posters and leaflets the children have produced about the Mississippi River, Rocky Mountains, Hoover Dam and the Kennedy Space Centre.





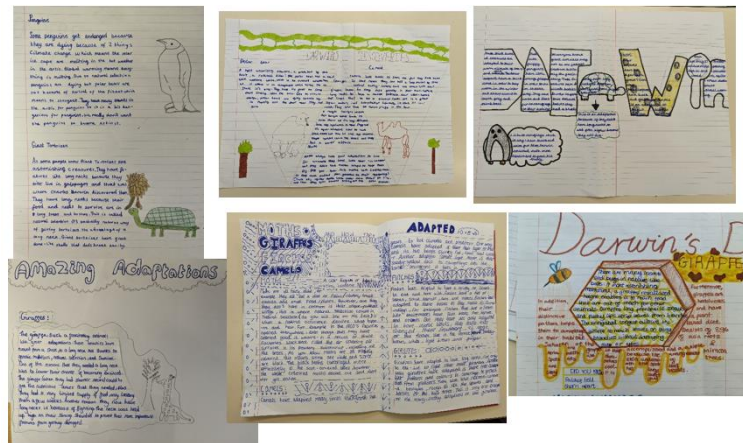
During our English lessons, the children have been focusing on their narrative writing, using the text 'The Incredible Journey' by Sheila Burnford as their inspiration. The children explored how to add tension and how to use a variety of sentence structures and sentence openers to their writing to add further detail and excitement. We were blown away by the children's finished products where they wrote their own version of an incredible journey for their animal characters. Well done Year 3 and 4!

Miss Webb



Year Five and Six-

This week, Year 5 and 6 have been busy completing their innovates: a journal in the style of Darwin all about different animals and their adaptations. All three classes have worked so hard to explain tricky concepts like evolution and natural selection while presenting their work beautifully.



In English, we have been writing 'Just So' stories in the style of Rudyard Kipling. Each child has come up with a unique concept of 'How the...' and had fun creating the characters and plot as well as typing them up and adding some photos to appeal to the intended younger audience.

On Wednesday, Year 6 represented the school brilliantly at the transition games at Cottesloe. The children took part in a mix of sporting and team work games such as moving a water bottle with just two skipping ropes and no hands. While Year 6 were out, Year 5 were developing their computing skills and used programming to develop a fruit catcher game with a points/scoring system and a countdown timer, some very impressive games were created and a lot of fun was had.



Thursday Treat Afternoon...

To celebrate all the hard work we are having a treat afternoon for the children. The children have been asked what they would like to do and we have arranged for the Ice-cream van to come in too. Here are our plans:

Acorns:

On Thursday we will spend part of our morning playing some fun team building and celebration games and then finish with a Teddy Bear's Picnic in the afternoon for our treat! **Please send in a Teddy on that day with your child.**

Key Stage 1:

But let's not forget to celebrate! Our KS1 children will be treated to an enjoyable afternoon filled with exciting activities. We have planned a delightful carousel of events for them. Firstly, a traditional tea party awaits, complete with delicious cakes, crisp snacks, and refreshing drinks. In the next classroom, they will showcase their talents with karaoke and dancing. And in the final classroom, fun-filled party games will bring laughter and joy.

Year 3 and 4:

In Year 3/4 we will be making cakes to represent layered sedimentary rocks linked to our geography lessons on the Grand Canyon. We will also create an advert for our creations.



Year 5 and 6

Next Thursday afternoon, all three classes will be hosting a summer party with music and old school party games. Children are invited to bring their own party food (**no nuts or fizzy drinks**) if they wish.

Reflections this week....

This week we have been looking back at what we have done over the year to live our PROUD principles. The children had to give examples of when they had been **Polite**, **Respectful**, **Owned** their choices, **Understood** the feelings of others and been **Determined** to improve. We had great fun in assembly creating a human pyramid, demonstrating how if you want to be a High Ash star you have to demonstrate all of the 5 principles. If you don't do all 5 then the pyramid will collapse so you can't be a true High Ash star. We discussed how it isn't easy and you have to be brave and courageous. We discussed the bible reading from Deuteronomy 31:6.



Annual Reports...

The children's annual reports will be sent out on Monday as explained in the office email they are slightly different this year and will not be in the plastic file (due to reducing plastic waste). As Mrs Lewin has been absent, I have had the pleasure of reading and commenting on over half of the reports. The teachers have spent a long time writing about your children and have really shown how well they know your children. The children have also written their comments too. Please do speak to the class teacher in the first instance if you have any queries or questions. There is a sheet for you to sign and return to school, this is so we know you have received them and we always appreciate it if you write a comment. Thank you.

For those parents who share care arrangements with their child(ren), the reports can be sent via email to the parent the child is not currently residing with. Therefore, it would be appreciated if you could please complete a Google form to confirm if you wish to receive a copy of your child's report via email. For these parents, the reports will be emailed to you by the end of the week.

Please do not complete a Google form if your child will be returning home to you on the day the reports will be sent home, as you will receive a paper copy of this report. Only those parents that the child WILL NOT be returning home with will receive their child's report via email. Please click on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/akTuRZD4WW47nnAA8>

Feedback from Parent Survey...

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Mrs Northen and the Governors are currently in the process of analysing the data and there will be further communication out next week with the feedback.

Houses for next year...

When the children return to school they will be in 4 different house teams. We need your help to come up with names of our houses, we are looking for inspirational, diverse significant figures. Are there any local inspirational characters? Or we could choose people like Martin Luther King or Amelia Earhart for example. Please chat with your child and come up with any suggestions. You don't need

to think of 4, any suggestions are appreciated. Email in your suggestions to the office and we will reveal the names of the houses when we return in September. Thank you for your help with this.

HASA Chair...

We are delighted to inform you that Charlotte Monk has been voted in as HASA's new Chair. I'm sure you will join us in thanking her for stepping in to support HASA next year. With your support, HASA hopes to be able to invite you and your children to many events throughout the year in order to raise funds for school resources. As always, your support is gratefully appreciated.

Things to look out for next year...

This term we set up a Behaviour Working Party which had representatives from the staff body and has been led by Miss Webb who has a National Professional Qualification in Leading Behaviour and Culture (NPQLBC). She has consulted with all staff members and children. We have held a pupil voice session to get the views of the children and have almost completed writing our new policy. We aim to launch our new policy at the beginning of the new term and we will be holding a parent's session about this in September.

We are also renewing our phonics provision and are developing the way we use Read Write Inc. to support the children learning their phonics. Mrs Barrasford is our new phonics lead and will be holding a parent's information session in September. Dates will be published at the start of the Autumn term.

Upcoming events...

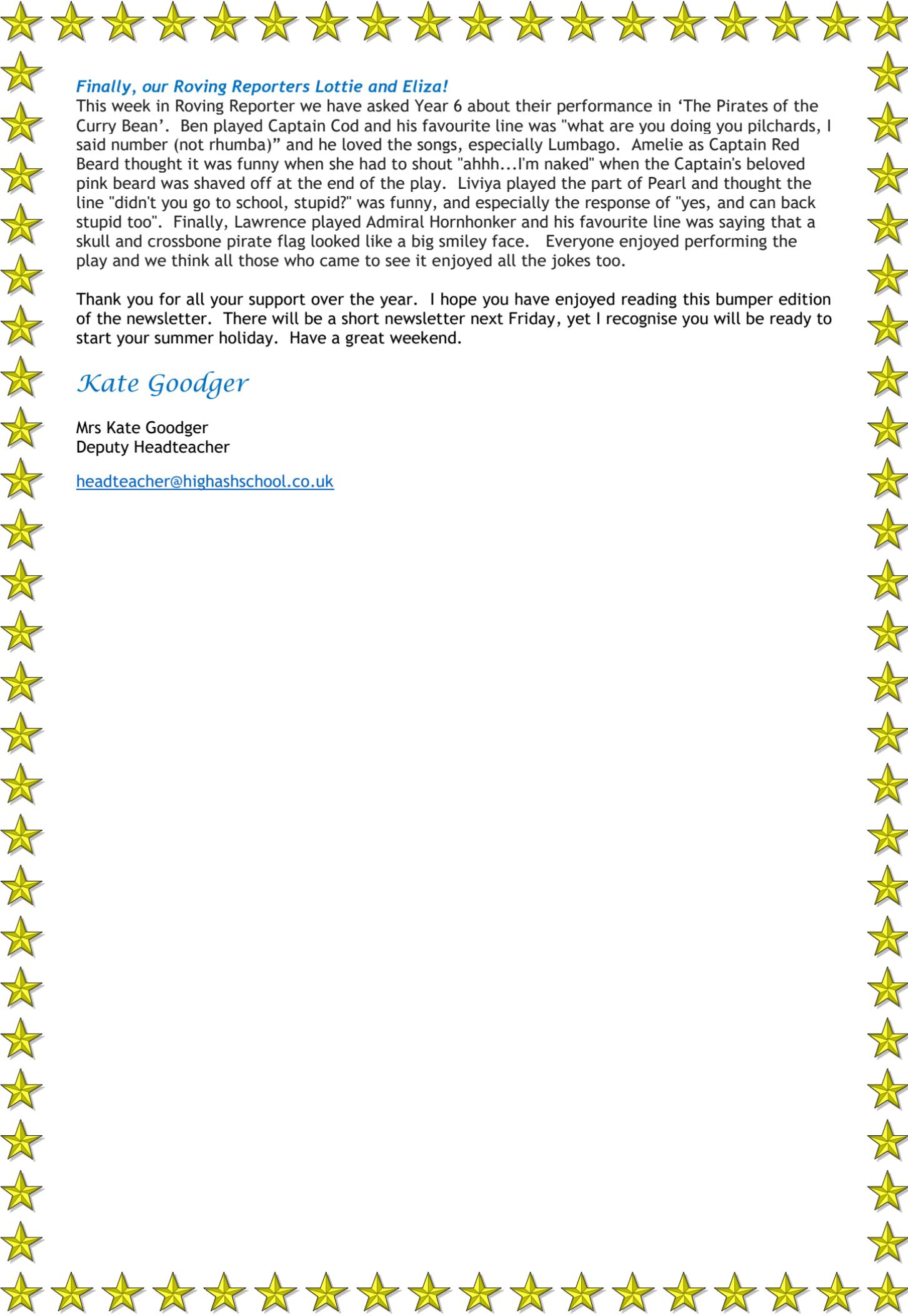
Next week:

Monday 17 th July	Children's reports sent home
Tuesday 18 th July 8.40 -9.20am	KS1 parents drop in to showcase their aquariums
Wednesday 19 th July at 1.30pm (1.45pm @ church)	Year 6 Leaver's blessing in church - all Year 6 parents invited. All the Year 5 children will be walking down to St Marys' to wish the Year 6's well.
Wednesday 19 th July AM	Greensands Trust visiting Foundation to deliver the 'Minibeast Gardens' education programme
Thursday 20 th July PM	All classes enjoy treat afternoon with a visit from the ice-cream van
Friday 21 st July at 2.15pm	Year 6 Leaver's assembly - all Year 6 parents invited. All the Year 5 and 6 children will participate in the leavers assembly.

Goodbyes...

As some of you may know we say goodbye to Miss Eldridge and Mrs Cluff this term. Miss Eldridge has been a Teaching Assistant with us for 6 years and has now got a school administrators role in another local school and Mrs Cluff who joined the team in earlier this academic year is relocating to Dubai with her family due to her husband's job. I would like to wish them all the best in their new ventures and thank them for all their hard work. We also have to say goodbye to Charlie Dog, our therapy dog. We have loved having him visit the school weekly yet he is very busy with his agility training and Pippa, his owner is very busy with work. I would like to thank Pippa for sharing Charlie with us - he is the most adorable well trained dog and will be missed. Pippa is helping us find another volunteer so we can continue to have another therapy dog in school next year.

Mrs Burrows is also leaving High Ash. She has decided to take a step back from leadership whilst she has a young family and is moving to a class teacher role at a school much closer to her home. Mrs Burrows has been at High Ash for 11 years, and indeed began her teaching career at High Ash. She is a hugely valued member of the team and will be very much missed. I am sure you all share with me in wishing Mrs Burrows well in her new role.



Finally, our Roving Reporters Lottie and Eliza!

This week in Roving Reporter we have asked Year 6 about their performance in 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean'. Ben played Captain Cod and his favourite line was "what are you doing you pilchards, I said number (not rhumba)" and he loved the songs, especially Lumbago. Amelie as Captain Red Beard thought it was funny when she had to shout "ahhh...I'm naked" when the Captain's beloved pink beard was shaved off at the end of the play. Liviya played the part of Pearl and thought the line "didn't you go to school, stupid?" was funny, and especially the response of "yes, and can back stupid too". Finally, Lawrence played Admiral Hornhonker and his favourite line was saying that a skull and crossbone pirate flag looked like a big smiley face. Everyone enjoyed performing the play and we think all those who came to see it enjoyed all the jokes too.

Thank you for all your support over the year. I hope you have enjoyed reading this bumper edition of the newsletter. There will be a short newsletter next Friday, yet I recognise you will be ready to start your summer holiday. Have a great weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs Kate Goodger
Deputy Headteacher

headteacher@highhashschool.co.uk