



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter
Friday 3rd May 2024



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Reminder - Parent Forum...

Our next Parent Forum with Mrs Goodger will be on **Thursday 9th May at 9am** in the hall then repeated at 6.00pm via zoom. If you would like to attend, please submit a google form by 10am Monday 6th May. Please click [here](#).

Class/Team Photographs...

Class Photographs and Teams are taking place next week, **Wednesday 8th November in the morning**. Please remember to send your child to school wearing their full school uniform, to include our school logo jumper or cardigan, and with a hair brush should they need to tidy their hair before their photo is to be taken. The proof photo card will go home with the child when received.

For parents living separately, it would be appreciated if you could please email the office if you would like to receive your child's class proof card via email to enable you to order online.

If your child is scheduled to have PE on this day, please send them to school with their PE kit in a named bag ready to change into.

Team photographs will be taken of the Y5/6 Football Team and Echoes 10 Choir attendees.

Thank you.

This week has been a busy one. It started on Monday with the choir having the opportunity to sing at the Echoes concert at the Royal Albert Hall. It was a fantastic experience for all and the children were fabulous ambassadors for High Ash. On Wednesday we had 30 children from Year 3 and 4 attend a cricket festival. They had a lovely time and although they ended up being the only school to attend - they upheld our PROUD principles. Yesterday we had the Key Stage 1 football festival - the children had a wonderful time and were also great ambassadors for the school.





Echoes 10 Choir @ RAH...

On Monday 29th April, Years 4,5 & 6 of choir went to London to perform at the Royal Albert Hall. We were taking part in Echoes which is a performance organised by the Buckinghamshire Music Trust. Many children took part from 40 different schools all over Buckinghamshire.



At 10:30am, we got on a coach which would take us all the way to London. Once we arrived we ate lunch in Kensington Gardens facing the Royal Albert Hall. We were shocked and thrilled at how grand the building was and we hadn't even been inside yet! After lunch, we went inside and were directed to our seats where we stayed for most of the day. At first, all 1700 people practised the finale together, but then the Constellations group went out to have their lunch and we began to practise our songs with Faye (our choirmaster). Our group was Seascapes and our songs were all about the oceans, including Song of the Fish and Beautiful Briny Sea. This rehearsal lasted 2 hrs 30 minutes, after which we went to have dinner and change into our Echoes t-shirts. We went back to the Royal Albert Hall at 6:00pm to wait while the audience came in. Everyone was very energetic and waving at parents who had come to watch. The concert began at 7:00pm and Seascapes started the whole concert with Wreck of the Amphitrite and by the time the interval came, we were definitely ready for a rest. After the interval we listened to the Constellations group. It was very exciting to listen to them as we had not heard their songs before and they even used instruments! The whole performance felt so quick that we had barely had any time before the finale, Brick by Brick. After this we all got back on the coach at 9:30pm and finally arrived back home at 11:00pm.



Over all, this was an incredible experience and one that many do not ever get to enjoy. We were truly lucky to get to the Royal Albert Hall and perform there. Oscar B said, 'Going to London was amazing and it was a nice change of scene, especially in Kensington Gardens.' Daisy also told us, 'The experience was incredible and being in the Royal Albert Hall was unbelievable.'

Eliza and Darcey

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns and Berries -

In Foundation this week we have been 'Busy Bees' and making the most of the sunny weather by doing a spot of gardening. We have been watering our 'Herb Garden', planting wild flower seeds and weeding in preparation for planting our vegetable seeds and plants. We are so grateful to our generous parents who have donated so many herbs and plants for this project.

This week, we have introduced 'The Skies Above My Eyes' book and discussed how there are things above in space that are beyond what our eyes can see from Earth. We have looked at the planets in our solar system, their names and discussed what makes each of them special and different from each other. The children then used what we had learned to independently order images of the planets.

In our Maths sessions, we have been developing the children's understanding of adding and taking away more than 1 object through singing and acting out rhymes. We also used ten frames and double sided counters to support our addition and subtraction understanding. In provision, we have been consolidating the children's learning of their numbers 11-20 by playing practical games and activities.

PE this term is gymnastics which is taught on Wednesdays and music and movement is on Fridays. In addition, please remember to dress your child with long sleeve tops and trousers for Forest School on Fridays due to the holly bushes, brambles and nettles that are in our area. When the weather is warmer, just dress them in lighter fabric clothing, but please ensure their arms and legs are covered and protected.



Mrs Bird and Mrs Webb

Year One and Two-

We've had a very busy week in Key Stage One again this week!

In English, we have been mastering our character description skills. We have been exploring some of the giants from the BFG by Roald Dahl. The children have been creating their own giants and describing these using adjectives, grouped adjectives with commas and similes! We have been impressed with the quality of the children's writing. Year 2 have also deepened their learning by editing their own writing using a green pen.

In Maths, Year 1 have been exploring mass in non-standard units. The children have enjoyed exploring the mass of objects around the classroom using balance scales and cubes to measure. In Year 2, the children have been exploring volume and capacity - the children have been attempting some tricky reasoning problems!



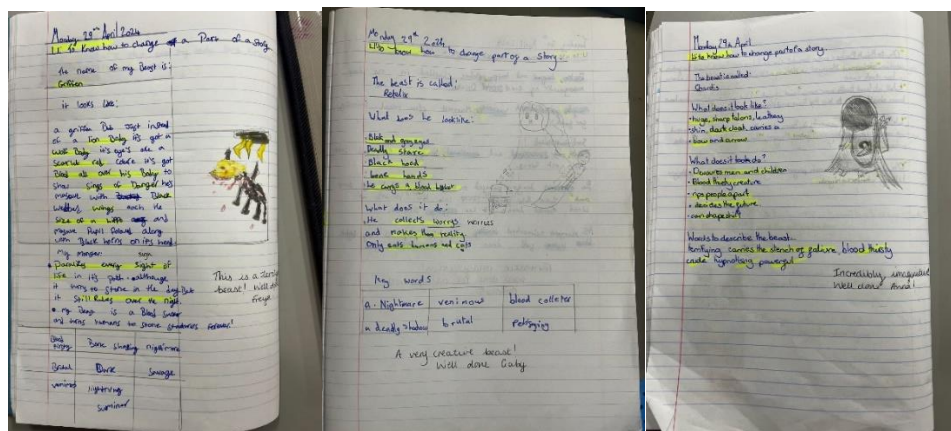
In Science, Year 1 have been exploring the respiratory system and how exercise has an impact on the body. The children were impressive in using their scientific vocabulary to describe the process and did some great scientific writing. Year 2 have been exploring balanced diets and understanding the importance of the different food groups.

Cherry Class Assembly on Friday 10th May at 2.15pm, doors open at 2.05pm. Parents are invited. We hope you can make it.

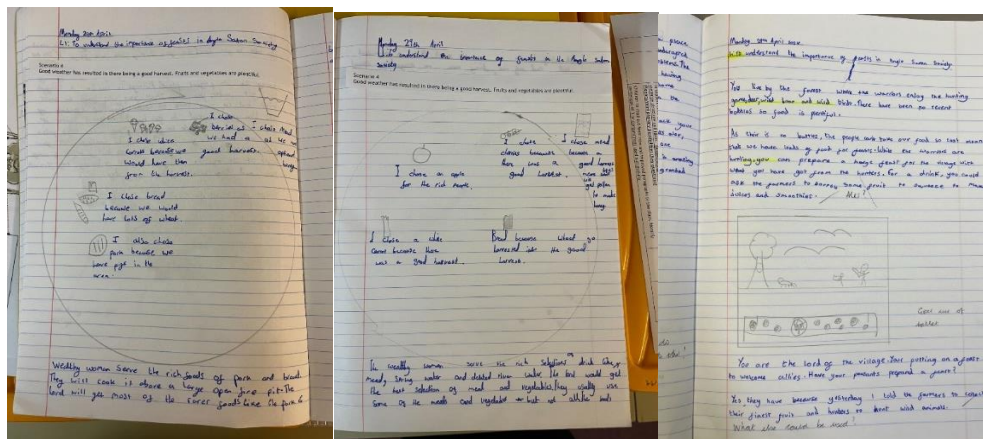
Miss Webb, Mrs Barrasford and Mrs Boyd

Year Three and Four-

This week in English we have been learning about how to create new characters in legends. We looked at what their physical attributes would be and what they have done to be the beast in the story. We have had some incredibly creative (and terrifying) creatures created. During the creative process we used our knowledge of adjectives and how we can use synonyms to avoid repetition when describing our characters.



In our Topic lessons, the children have been learning all about the Anglo Saxon feasts and what they would typically eat. We were surprised to know that they (like Gladiators) were vegetarians. To understand the feasts more thoroughly, we wrote about what they would eat in their day to day lives, compared to a feast.



On Wednesday some of the children participated in a cricket afternoon run by Bucks Cricket Club, this was a fantastic afternoon! The children learnt a lot of new cricket skills and used their teamwork and PROUD principles to work together while taking part in the activities planned. They showed respect and were incredibly polite to the sports leaders. Thank you to all the parents that ferried their children to and from and stayed to watch.



Miss Maylor, Mrs Gough, Mrs Wood and Mr Devitt

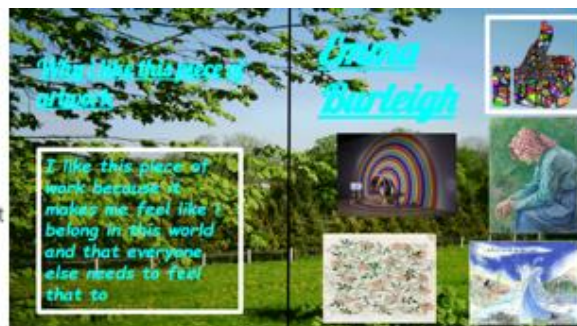
Year 5 and 6

Year 5/6 have been working really hard this week across all subjects. In English, we have started our report writing topic (which we will share next week), all about the adventures of Ernest Shackleton. In maths, Year 5 have been finishing off their topic looking at position and direction within geometry whilst Year 6 have been busily preparing themselves for the upcoming SATs.

This week in Art we have been studying the artwork of two artists known for their use of watercolours in their work; Emma Burleigh and Paul Klee. We then researched other pieces of artwork from both and described what we liked (or didn't like) about the pieces, exploring how they made us feel.



This reminds me of a winter's night Dream and I instantly think of a winter landmark in the middle of a forest and makes me feel calm and peaceful.



In geography, we learned that glaciers (which occur in latitudes of 66.5 degrees north and south) are rivers of ice that flow in Polar Regions. Glaciers shape the land through which they flow creating glacial valleys, some of which (during the ice ages) were gouged in Britain. Using slime and gravel, we demonstrated how glaciers collect and deposit rock far from its origin.



In PE, we were practicing our fielding skills in cricket and ensuring we used the correct throwing technique depending on the distance and recognising the importance of accuracy when aiming towards those all-important stumps. We also practised catching and throwing whilst on the move, as we are aware that in cricket, every second the ball is out on the field is important. We applied our skills to a game of diamond cricket which, in Willow class, got quite competitive!



Miss Whitehead, Mr Simmonds and Mrs Gray

Semi-Finals Football Cup Match v Turnfurlong Junior Primary School

The match started with High Ash passing the ball round trying to calm the flow of the game. Minutes later, Turnfurlong had a couple of good runs and almost scored but Elliot commanded the box. Passing it around with intention to score, High Ash gradually passed the ball up the pitch, Elliot to Reuben next to Harrison, then to Jaiden to Harry. GOAL!!! Harry made the score 1-0 at the start of a difficult game. Turnfurlong started pressurising us and got a few free kicks in a dangerous position. However, our wall blocked it or Elliot would catch the ball. Jamie and Thomas (our two wingers) tracked back in the middle of the first half when the defenders needed support. In the last five minutes of the first half Turnfurlong dominated possession and their number 8 made a dashing run down the wing and scored a screamer in the top left corner. The neutral referee added an extra 2 minutes on to the first half.

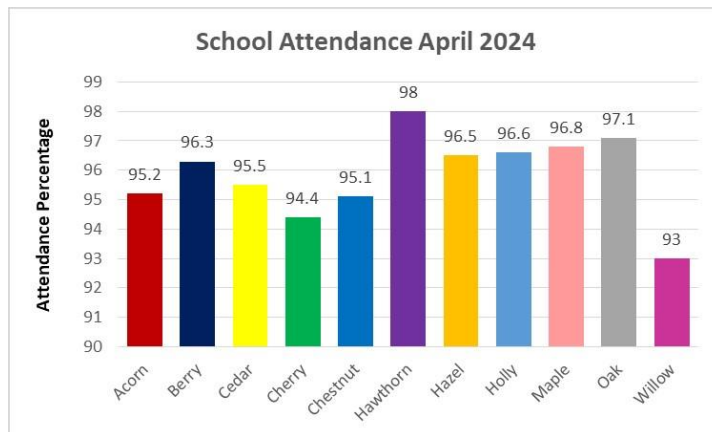
The whistle for the second half blew and all of the players were focused and ready for the second half to commence. Once it started, everyone lost their composure but eventually our heads were back in the game. Elliot kept on passing to Harry and Harry would pass it to either Dylan or Thomas. After many attempts, we finally got a goal from Thomas after he dribbled past the keeper and calmly finished it off, giving us the lead with five minutes remaining. Turnfurlong tried their absolute hardest for another goal and they almost got their wish but the ball hit the post scaring everyone on our team. Seconds later number 8 tried to score a bicycle kick, however, our strong defender Jacob courageously blocked it helping us keep our well-earned lead. The match became heated and everyone became rough but no fouls were committed. With that, the full time whistle blew relieving every High Ash player and parent after a nail biting game. High Ash won the game and now are through to the finals of the cup for the first time in many years.

A big thank you to all of the parents for dedicating their time to watch us play and taking us to Aylesbury.

Jacob

Attendance...

Attendance this week is 96%.



Reflections this week...

We have continued to look at mental health. This week's big question is 'Why might people not want to speak out about their mental health?' We talked about that sometimes it is uncomfortable to share these feelings yet it is important to. In classes, KS1 and Foundation talked about the difference about a little worry and a big worry, and in KS2 the children designed a form that they could fill in and put in the worry box if they found it too hard to say the words out loud. Our bible reading to support us this week has been: Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:19

No Mow May...

This year we are going to be taking part in #No-Mow May. This is an annual campaign calling on people not to mow their grass during May. Leaving grassy areas to grow longer this summer allows native flowers to bloom for bees and butterflies and provides shelter for small mammals.

#No-Mow May was one of the suggestions from our Eco-Committee and I'm really keen to support the idea but it's not entirely practical to let the whole of the school field turn into a wildflower meadow when we've still got PE lessons every day. Instead we're going to not mow the section of the field behind the Ash Tree down to the Willow and then also leave a 4m margin un-mowed around the perimeter of the field. Our plan is to leave this to grow all summer, so more than just no-mow May, as this will really improve the bio-diversity of our school site. We're in the process of changing our grounds maintenance contract and the new contractor has some great ideas about how we can make the most of these wild areas, including helping us sew wildflower seeds next Spring.



Finally, our Roving Reporters Eliza and Oscar!

This term, Year 1/2 have been enjoying their new topic 'Bounce', so we went to see which lessons were their favourite. Vdara's favourite lesson was when they learnt about eating a balanced diet and Hassan liked learning about the changes in your body when you do exercise. Both Olivia and Gabriel enjoyed the lesson where they checked their pulse before and after exercising to see the difference in their heart rate.

Diary dates for next week...

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday (School Closed)

Tuesday 7th May - Year 6 Maths Booster Class (Final session)

Wednesday 8th May - Class/Group Photographs

Wednesday 8th May - Netball Game v St. Michaels (Home game) @ 3.30-4.15pm

Thursday 9th May - Parent Forum with Mrs Goodger @ 9am and repeated 6pm

Thursday 9th May - Selected Y3/4 Football Tournament @ Bierton School @ 3.45-5.30pm

Friday 10th May - Cherry Class Assembly @ 2.15pm, doors open at 2.05pm

Friday 10th May - F/KS1 Star Assembly @ 2.55pm, doors open 2.45pm (invitation only)

Friday 10th May - Friendly Football Match v Newton Longville (Home game) @ 3.30-4.15pm

Have a great weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs Kate Goodger
Acting Headteacher

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