



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

Thank you for all your kind wishes and congratulations for being appointed as High Ash's Headteacher. I am really excited to be the new Headteacher. I have held Parent Forums this week and explained that I am spending this term reviewing all elements of school and with the Board of Governors, we will be setting out the 3 Year strategic plan. I am also really keen that you feel part of this review and setting the 'tone' for the next stage in the High Ash journey for your children. I have already started this process in the Parent Forums and will be sending out a parent's survey and hosting focus groups for you to attend before the end of the summer term.

***Update on High Ash joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)...***

The Board of Governors alongside myself and Mrs Northen (Business Manager) have dedicated a lot of time to investigating the advantages and disadvantages of joining a MAT. We have been working with our neighbouring schools in the local area, including The Cottesloe School, to look at whether a local MAT is right for High Ash. At this point, the Board has decided not to pursue this any further as our focus needs to be on school improvement and ensuring we are in a sustainable financial position.

We need to focus on getting ourselves out of having a 'requires improvement' judgement and return to being 'good' and therefore this is not the right time for High Ash to face yet another change when we have been through so many recently. The board is not saying High Ash will never join an academy - just not now. We will continue to work closely with the other local schools, as collaboration is the way to support High Ash to achieve its potential. The Board will continue to regularly keep abreast of developments with the academy agenda especially following the general election.

***Census Day Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May...***

Our Census Return Day is next week, **Thursday 16th May**. In order to help support our Universal Free School Meals funding for Foundation to Year 2 children, it would be appreciated if you could please book your child a school meal on this day. The more children booked to receive a school meal the better funding we receive from Buckinghamshire Council. Your child does not have to have the school meal, you can still send them to school with a packed lunch, if preferred.

On Census day the children will be offered chicken curry, which is extremely popular, together with our last crumble of the school year, Toffee Apple Crumble and Vanilla Custard.

If you are booking a school meal for your child on this day, but prefer your child to eat the packed lunch you have provided, please email [kitchen@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:kitchen@highashschool.co.uk) to inform them.

Thank you for your support.

***Sunscreen, hats and water bottles...***

As the summer has finally arrived, please can I remind you all to ensure that your child has a water bottle in school. Also, please can you apply sunscreen before they come to school. You may wish to use the 8 hour long lasting type or you may send your child in with sunscreen to apply at play time or lunchtime, so long as it has the child's name on the bottle and the child administers it themselves.

You may need to teach them how to put it on. Unfortunately, staff are unable to apply the sun cream to the children as this is intimate care and there are safeguarding issues with this. Please also send them in with a named hat - as you know there is very little shade on the field - a hat is really important. Many thanks for your support with this.

*Mid-Morning Snacks...*

May we remind you to please send your child to school with a health mid-morning snack, Fruit/Veg stick or cereal bar, nothing containing nuts as we are NUT FREE school. Many thanks.

*Learning highlights this week...*

Acorns and Berries -

This week in Foundation, we have continued to learn about the amazing planets in our solar system. We have been recalling the amazing facts we have found out and been deciding what we might say in our class assembly ready to start rehearsing next week. We used different vegetables to print our solar system, checking we had our planets in the correct order.

In our Maths sessions, we have looked again at 2D shapes. We looked at shapes that had been put together and reasoned which one didn't belong in the group. We then looked at pictures that used shapes and explored how we could rotate shapes to make pictures with them. We then made our own pictures using 2D shapes and rotating them in different ways.

In provision, we have used chalks to create huge solar system pictures out on the playground in teams. We completed work showing different representations of the numbers up to twenty and we also played a hopscotch game using the numbers to twenty in order to apply our maths learning from the last couple of weeks.

Our Foundation sensory herb garden was entered into a competition by a parent family, to help us with further resources. We didn't receive the winning prize, however we were given pots full of flowers and resources to help with growing our vegetables.

Now the sun is shining, please can you put sun cream on your child in the morning before they come in to school and send your child in with a named sun hat as we are spending more time in our outside provision.

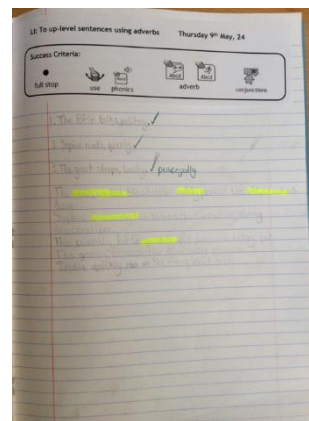
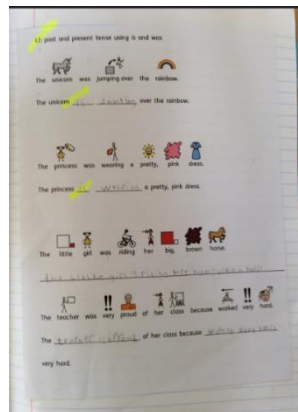
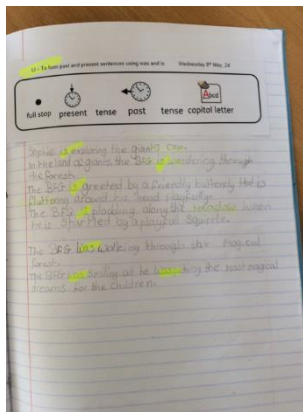


*Mrs Bird and Mrs Webb*

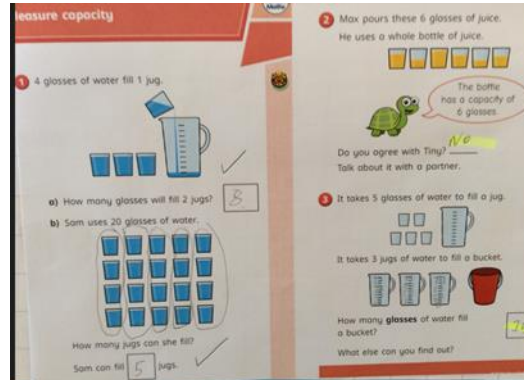
### Year One and Two-

This week in KS1 we have had yet another busy week! Year 1 have been busy practising for their class assembly and have impressed everyone with how they have confidently learnt their lines and all of the actions to their songs.

In English this week, Year 1 have been learning how to publish their writing with a focus on presentation and checking that all of our sentences are correctly punctuated. In Year 2, we have had a SPAG focus week where we have been using the BFG to learn how to use adverbs and use the past and present tense correctly and consistently. All of KS1 have enjoyed their class reader of the BFG this week, it's been especially nice having story time outside in the sun!



In Maths this week, Year 1 have completed their unit on capacity and volume. We explored how many cups it would take to fill different capacity of jugs and then use this to answer two step word problems! In Year 2, the children have started their unit on fractions looking at equal parts of a shape and then finding half.

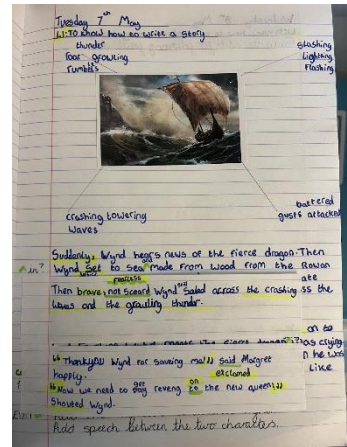
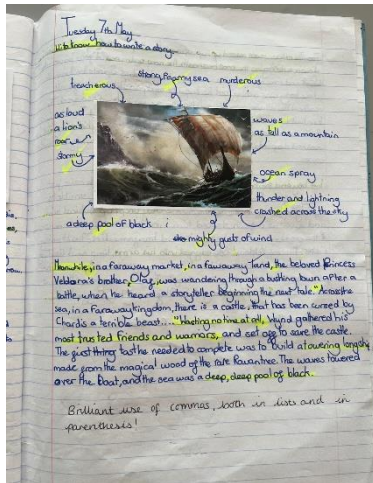
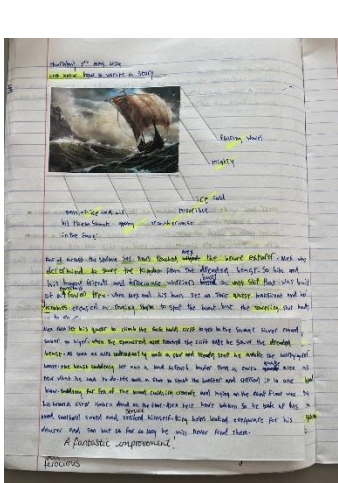


Next week, as part of our Bounce topic, we are very lucky to have a tennis coach coming into school to work with all of the KS1 classes. Please can you ensure your child is wearing their PE kit on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** for this!

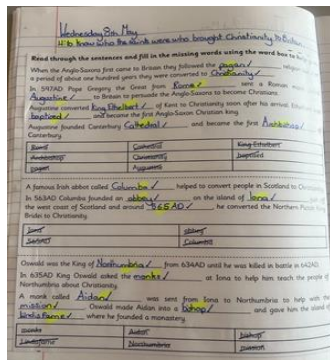
*Miss Webb, Mrs Boyd and Mrs Barrasford*

### Year Three and Four-

This week in English we have been starting to write our own legends based on the story of 'The Dragon of Spindleston Heugh'. We have incorporated the characters we created last week and the children have written and then edited to improve some fantastic legends! The Anglo Saxons would be proud to read these round a campfire!



In our Topic lessons this week we have been looking at the Saints that helped to convert the British religion from Paganism to Christianity. We started by looking at the differences between Paganism and Christianity, then moved onto looking at the 4 Saints that were sent on missions from other countries! To help solidify our knowledge, we created a table to help us understand who they were, where they lived and what they accomplished in their time.



Who	Where	When	What they did
Augustine	Canterbury	597 AD	First Bishop of Britain
Paulinus	York	625-640	First Bishop of York
Willibrord	Frisia	690 AD	First Bishop of Utrecht
Wulfstan	Northumbria	940 AD	First Bishop of Northumbria

Our music lesson this week has been filled with creating call and response, or call and echo melodies. We have been looking at pitch, tempo and duration to help us create fun and dynamic call and responses. To help us remember them, we used bars of music and the note names with their duration underneath.



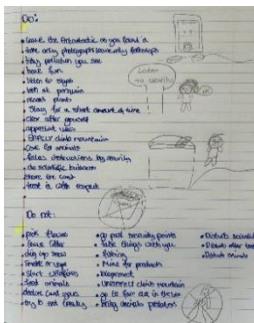
On Thursday evening we had a wonderful time showcasing our footballing talent at a KS2 Football Tournament. The children were fantastic ambassadors for High Ash and we are very proud of them. Thank you to the parents who dropped off and picked up and thank you to Miss Maylor and Mrs Bradford who went with the children.

*Miss Maylor, Mrs Gough, Mrs Wood and Mr Devitt*



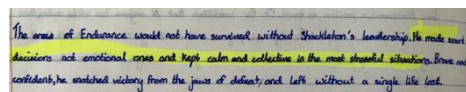
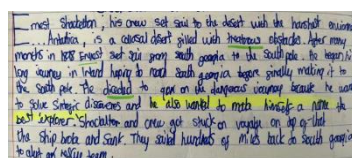
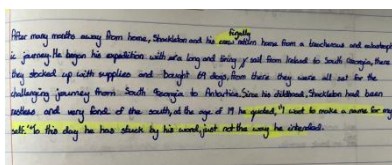
### Year 5 and 6

Year 5 and 6 have been fully immersed in their topic this week. In guided reading, we have been studying the non-fiction text, 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. Picking out some of the techniques that the author has used which enables the reader to understand the emotions and actions of the people involved. Using the language from the text, we created short dramas happening simultaneously, demonstrating the feelings of those stranded on the ice during the exploration. Meanwhile, in Geography, we have been spending time considering the threats to Antarctica and what is in place to protect the largest desert in the world. After researching the advantages and disadvantages of tourism in Antarctica we created guidelines to help protect this wonderful landscape from threats such as pollution, littering and mining.



This week we continued to explore watercolours and techniques in preparation for planning and completing our final pieces in the coming weeks. In preparation we watched a demonstration from Emma Burleigh which focussed on how we develop imagery in our artwork.

Last week we unpicked the key language and structural features of a report before planning our own report based upon Shackleton's expedition. This week we have been writing the first drafts of our reports, using grammatical features such as fronted adverbials and active and passive voice.





### Reminder - Year 6 SAT's next week - Monday-Thursday

As it is SATS next week, we would like to ensure that the children have a relaxing and comforting start to their day. We are planning to provide the children with breakfast at 8:00am each day in Willow classroom. The children will be able to socialise with their friends and also have a run around before it's time to line up on the playground. We hope you will support this by bringing the children in slightly earlier than normal. Please come through the main school entrance if arriving before 8.35am.

*Mr Simmons, Miss Whitehead and Mrs Gray*

### Attendance...

Attendance this week is 97.2%.

### Reflections this week...

This week we have continued to look at our Mental Health and how important it is to talk to others when we are finding things tough. We looked at Proverb 18:13, It is foolish to jump to conclusions before investigating the facts and talked about why this is important to remember when thinking about mental health.

### Parking in the village...

Please, please, please think about where you are parking, how you are driving in our village and how you speak to our neighbours. Again, the village was gridlocked one morning this week and there were very angry motorists. School cannot 'police' the traffic outside nor the parking. Our duty is to educate the children and prepare them for the future, yet it is very disappointing to hear from the local residents that High Ash parents are rude and aggressive as children then think this behaviour is acceptable.

I know it is not all of you - in fact it is a minority - yet it is the impression the village holds of High Ash parents. It would be very helpful if parents could set a good example to the children and follow our PROUD principles when in the village and hopefully we can find a way to get on with our neighbours (**Polite, Respectful, Owing our choices, Understanding the feelings of others** and being Determined to improve). Thank you.

### Finally, our Roving Reporters Eliza and Oscar!

This week we asked Year 3/4 and 5/6 what their favourite subject is. In Year 3/4 James S said that he loves maths because it is interesting to learn new things; he especially enjoys time and fractions. Sophie W and Emeilia H both like history as it is a great way to understand not only what happened in the past but also how the people felt. In Year 5/6, Aimee also enjoys maths because the teachers work hard to make the lessons fun and interactive. Malachi likes science because he enjoys the experiments and Cerys likes art because she loves being creative.

### Diary Dates for next week...

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Year 6 SATs week - No absences permitted

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Ross Neary, KS1 Tennis Coach

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Year 6 Football Cup Final

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May - KS2 Star Assembly @ 2.55pm, doors open at 2.45pm (invitation only)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May - KS1 RE Visitor (Jewish faith)

Have a great weekend now that summer is here.

*Kate Goodger*

Mrs Kate Goodger  
Headteacher

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