



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

That's it, another academic year done. Thank you to all our families for the support you have given the school this year. It has been an eventful year, yet I am excited to have a much more settled year for 2024-25. I am so proud of all of our children's achievements - it is always a joy to be a part of a child's learning experience and thinking back to where they started in September to where they are finishing the academic year. As I look forward to the next academic year I am excited about the future. It has been lovely to hear that HASA have had some new members join and are already planning to host the first event, which is a **family fun afternoon** on the **15<sup>th</sup> September**. All families are very welcome to come and we would love to see you - it is an informal event, where you can bring your picnic blanket and chairs, catch up with friends whilst your children have fun on the inflatables.

Of course, I do need to say goodbye to some of you who are moving on to secondary school or other schools. I wish you all the best and hope that you can look back at your time at High Ash with fond memories.

Here is a brief look at some of the activities the children have been getting up to this week.

#### *Learning highlights this week...*

##### Acorns and Berries -

Well how time has flown this year! We cannot believe that we have reached the end of Foundation. We have had so much fun in our final week of learning in Berry and Acorn's class. We have finished our learning on the ocean by learning about how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle the waste that we have. We were then practising being eco-warriors ourselves in provision by sorting different things from our junk modelling area and classroom into groups like plastic, metal, wood and paper in order for it to be recycled.

We looked at the story 'The Odd Fish' and talked about how the sea creatures in the story mistook a plastic bottle for a fish and tried to help it to find it's family. We made links between this story and what happened in last week's story 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley.'

In Maths this week, we have continued our problem solving. We have used maths stories to explore applying what we know. We used a story about a bug who wanted to reach the watering hole in the African plains for a bath, however he had to safely navigate his way through and past all of the large animals such as elephants, giraffes and even a lion! We then used stones with the characters on and a bowl of water to explore what happened to the level of the water as the animals were put into the bowl. We used maths vocabulary such as 'empty' 'half full' 'nearly full' and 'full'.

We would like to send a huge thank you to all of our families for all of your support this year! It has been pleasure to work with you all and to teach your wonderful children. We wish you all a fun packed and safe summer holiday!



*Mrs Bird and Mrs Webb*

Year One and Two-

It has been an incredible week for Key Stage One, with lots of exciting activities and learning experiences.

On Monday, our children had a productive day using the chrome books to create animation programs on Scratch. It was amazing to see their creativity and tech skills in action.

Tuesday was even more thrilling as we went on our school trip to Waddesdon Manor. Despite the unpredictable weather, we were able to explore the beautiful gardens and participate in workshops where the children showcased their knowledge about plants through their answers to various questions. Later, we had a lovely lunch on the steps of the Manor House, followed by the children building their own bug hotels. The day was full of excitement and learning, and the children were an absolute credit to us all!



On Wednesday, we were blown away by the children's exceptional work during innovate. They worked in groups to create outstanding posters about their learning in our scented garden topic. Through their posters, they demonstrated their understanding of different aspects, such as parts of plants, germination, and adaptations. The children were excited to present their posters to the foundation children this morning.



Last but not least, on Thursday, the children had their end-of-term treat, BFG day. It was a blast watching them make dream jars and dream catchers. The snack time was also quite intriguing, with the children trying out snozzcumbers and frobscottle. We rounded up the day by watching the BFG film, which was a perfect way to end the term.



*Mrs Barrasford, Mrs Boyd and Miss Webb*

#### Year Three and Four-

This week we have been focussing on creating our final innovate of the year! Our goal is to explain all that we know about the water cycle, using our past knowledge as well as the new knowledge we have acquired over the term! Using the materials we had in school (and a few cotton wool balls) the children created their own water cycle! They also had to write a small explanation about one or two parts of the water cycle.



Thank you to all of you who came in to support the children and listen to all of their facts!

In D&T we have been finishing our educational hand puppets. We have spent a lot of time working on our designs and thinking about how it would help each child. Some have been designed to support phonics or maths - we even have a circulatory system puppet! Year 4 have been able to develop their sewing skills from last year and even been helping the Year 3's who may have never sewn before!



Our termly treat was making our very own scones! The children could choose from four flavours: Chocolate chips, cheese, cherries and raisins. We may have some budding bakers in our classes, they look fantastic!



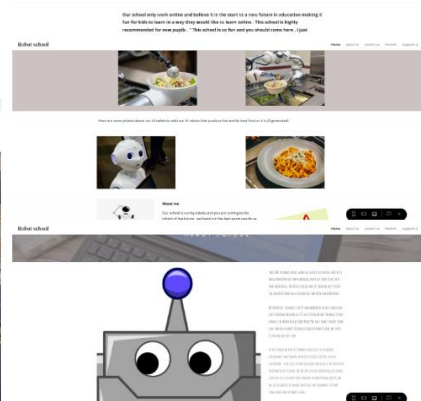
*Miss Maylor, Mrs Gough and Mrs Wood*

### Year 5 and 6

On Monday this week, the Year 6's were invited to the Transition Games at The Cottesloe School. It didn't matter what secondary/middle school we had been allocated, everyone was welcome. After a ride on a double decker bus (everyone wanted to sit on the top deck of course). On arrival, we were greeted at Cottesloe by two former High Ash students, Bella and Autumn. In the huge sports hall, we were arranged into groups according to which school we will be transitioning to and the event soon began. We were taken outside for a variety of team games: having to manoeuvre a bottle of water using just two skipping ropes, extricate ourselves from a 'human knot', British bulldog, Benchball, a variation of 'the floor is lava' - and many more. It was great to meet and make friends with children from our next school and a really fun and memorable event.



In addition, this week we have completed our innovates - designing a website for a futuristic school using Google Sites. The children used their knowledge collected from over the half term to create effective, usable websites.



Finally, Year 6s enjoyed their leaver's festival. The sun shone, the mocktails flowed and games were enjoyed! It was a fitting end to their time at High Ash!



*Mr Simmonds, Miss Whitehead and Mrs Gray*

*The ice cream van...*

The children loved the visit from the ice cream van on Thursday and I have been very impressed with the beautiful manners of the children. Many children this week have gone out of their way to thank me for buying them an ice cream. I think they would like me to arrange a visit from the ice cream van every day!!!!



Thank you for all your kind words and gifts that you have given myself and the staff. We never expect anything yet are always so grateful - it is very generous of you all. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

*Kate Goodger*

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