



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter
Friday 6th September 2024
'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely summer and we are really pleased to see you all. Over the Summer we have had work done both inside and outside the school. We are really pleased with our new fenced area for Foundation and the new outdoor learning space for Year 1 and 2. This will make a difference to the provision we can offer the children in Key Stage 1. We have also had the hall professionally decorated and new blinds put up - this has made a massive difference and you will be able to see for yourselves when you come in for Star or Class assemblies. All of our Year 5 and 6 classes have been decorated and this too has created a much more inviting learning space for our children. This work has been undertaken by outside contractors along with Mr Barnell, Mr Priestley - I am grateful for all their hard work and commitment they have shown to our school. I also need to thank Mrs Northern who oversees all site projects, arranges contractors and spends a lot of her summer popping into school to meet with various people or receive deliveries. I think inwardly Mrs Northern groans when I start saying, 'I've had an idea...@!!!



Attendance...

This week's attendance is 95%. Thank you to you all for making sure your children have attended school this week. I recognise that if children are ill they cannot come into school yet we need to try hard to ensure that our school attendance is above 95% for the school year. Each week I will continue to let you know what percentage of children we have had in school. As always thank you for your support with this.

Please continue to let us know as early as possible if your children are unwell and will not be in school. You can call the office as normal and we have now created a new email just for absence so we can update the registers as quickly as possible. Please use **absence@highashschool.co.uk**

Change of home arrangements...

Can we please remind all parents to email the office by 12.30pm daily with any change of home arrangements so we can ensure the teachers are made aware of these changes in good time. Please do not leave it close to the end of the school day as the office does get extremely busy and we cannot guarantee these messages will be read and passed to the teachers. Thank you for your understanding.

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns -

The children have settled in well to school on their phased start. Mrs Bird and Miss Stewart have enjoyed getting to know the children on their visits this week. Next week there will be photos of what the children have got up to!

Please provide consent for your child's photograph to be included in any of our newsletters which are also uploaded on to our website. Please click on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/2Mz2DNJ56TomZuiv8>

Year One and Two-

Wow! One day into the term and all of the teachers have been so impressed by the attitude and determination of the Year 1 and 2 children. There was a hubbub of excitement at the new outdoor area and all children had lots of fun exploring the space - even with the windy weather!! The children have also worked hard in lessons today - Year 1 have been focused mathematicians sorting different objects by different criteria and Year 2 have been exploring their feelings about the upcoming year and creating worry monsters!



Year Three and Four-

Our first two days back at High Ash have been fantastic. Everyone has settled in well and we have enjoyed catching up about our holidays! Our focus this week has been primarily PSHE looking at 'Being me in my world' how we can be proud of ourselves, show and understand our emotions and talk about what we can do to make our world a better place to be!



Year Five and Six-

Year 5/6 have settled in brilliantly. Despite the dreary weather on Thursday, we were able to enjoy time outside at play time and the Year 5s were able to wait just that little longer for their lunch! Year 6s enjoyed sitting on the benches for the first time and signing up for the extra responsibilities that come with being at the top of the school! In class, we have been primarily focusing on setting our goals and understanding what is needed to achieve these goals, looking at Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. We are looking forward to getting stuck into our topic next week!

Year 6 Transfer Test...

On Tuesday (the practice test) and Thursday (the main test) our Year 6's will sit the Secondary Transfer Test. If you do not wish your Year 6 child to sit the test, please do email the office as soon as possible. Your child will be doing other activities with the Year 5 children.

HASA Fun on the field -inflatables afternoon 1 - 4pm, Sunday 15th September...

As a new Head, I am really keen to build the school community, in conjunction with speaking to parents at last term's parent focus groups, many parents are too. Before Covid, here at High Ash we had a very supportive and committed community. Parents enjoyed meeting and doing family events at school. This obviously stopped and HASA have been trying to bring it back. This year there will be events hosted by HASA for families to enjoy. They start the academic year with the 'Fun on the Field' - the idea being that families can attend and spend the afternoon catching up after the summer whilst the children are entertained on the field with inflatables and penalty shoot outs and other games. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible to show your support to the school and to HASA. **Please book on Parentpay if you would like to attend.**

Year 1 (and some Year 2) Parent's interactive phonic workshop with children ...

Following on from the Parent focus groups there was a consensus that parents would like to come into school more often to work with and see their child learning. On **Wednesday 18th September** we will be holding a **phonics workshop with parents and their child at 9am until 10am**. If you are a parent in Year 1, please click [here](#) to book. Year 2 Parents will be contacted if your child is involved in this session and you too can book using this link. It would be great to see as many of you as possible and I know your child will love to share their phonics learning with you!

SEND Parents Tea and Cake event - Wednesday 18th September....

On Wednesday 18th at 2.45pm we have our first SEND Parent tea and cake event. We set this up last week and any parent is invited to attend if you have a child with a SEND need or think your child may have one. The idea is to have a safe space to ask questions, find out information and just feel supported (without being judged) from other parents as well as school. Those parents who attended last year felt these sessions were really useful, so please do feel free to join us.



Star Assemblies...

We start the year of Star Assemblies off on Friday 13th September for Key Stage 2. Doors open at 2.45pm for a 2.55pm start. As last term you will be emailed if your child is going to be awarded a certificate. As we have only started back to school this week we have been unable to give you the usual week and a half notice. Please note that we will no longer be awarding merit badges in these assemblies. Instead the children will receive their merit badges as soon as they have reached the allotted number of merits required for a badge.

Year 4 Swimming starts...

This year, our Year 4 children are having swimming lessons at Leon Sports Centre starting on **Tuesday 17th September**. Please see the separate emails which have been sent out or contact the school office if you have any questions.

Year 6 Residential Parents meeting...

The Year 6 residential is a little over 3 weeks away. We are holding a short meeting for parents on **Monday 9th of September at 6pm**. We know it's a busy week with the transfer test but we felt it was important to hold the meeting as soon as possible on our return to school. Children can attend too.

MacMillan coffee event...

As part of our reflections on understanding the feelings of others and wanting to 'Let our Light Shine,' we will be holding a **coffee afternoon on Friday 27th September**. Please do come, the whole school community is invited. We would like as many families as possible to bake or buy a cake for the event. This will take place in the hall. Please see below the timetable of when parents are invited to join us with the children:

- 2.00pm - Year 5/6 parents
- 2.20pm - Year 3/4 parents
- 2.40pm - Year 1/2 parents
- 3.00pm - Year R Acorn Parents

We are asking for a donation so the children have been asked to bring in some pennies to buy a cake. As Tesco says 'Every little helps!' You are welcome to come for the whole afternoon or just part.

Drinks will be available for adults and the children will bring their water bottles with them. If you are able to provide cakes, please can you send them in to school on the Friday morning. I look forward to seeing you there.

Children's diaries...

All children are provided with a diary. Please can you use this to record listening to your child read and any messages you want teachers to know. For example, how they loved Dino girl or the violin lessons. You could also use them to enquire about a lost jumper. Please do not use them to change end of day arrangements. We always endeavour to check the diaries every morning in Foundation and Key Stage 1 yet there are occasions when this isn't the case, it may be that your child has not put their diary in the basket despite being asked for it, they may tell us they haven't got it and we don't have time to check all bags so messages could get missed. If it is a really important message, please do email the office. In Key stage 2 it is the child's responsibility to alert the teacher if there is a message in their diaries.

Diary Dates 2024-25

Please view the attached diary dates for 2024-25. However, you will receive weekly reminders within our weekly newsletters of all events happening the following week. The diary dates can also be found on our website.

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