



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter
Friday 13th September 2024
'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

This week we have launched our #Bebothered campaign in school. Our new Reflection Leaders demonstrated what happens when we can't be bothered to look after ourselves properly, or we can't be bothered to listen to the adults, or to look after our resources that we are given. We have already seen a super improvement in children looking after their resources in class, making sure that the glue sticks have their lids on and their pencils are sharpened ready for their learning. The children have also been working really hard and have demonstrated super behaviours for learning. Every time I walk into the classes I have been really impressed with how focused the children are in their learning.

I am a clever writer...

This year we are adopting a new approach to our writing and have written a new curriculum for writing in conjunction with I am a Clever Writer. All the teachers this week have been involved in writing the new writing curriculum for their year groups. We are also having a really big focus on improving handwriting. If we can improve the children's handwriting, then we will reduce cognitive load so that they are able to focus on the structure of writing. Over the year we will be sharing the successes of our writing with you through the newsletter, at parent's consultations and there will be examples on display around the school.

Learning highlights this week...

There has been great learning in class, here are some of the highlights.

Acorns -

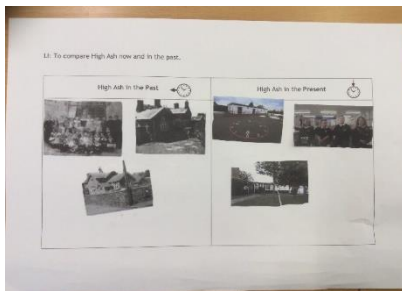
Acorns have all had an exciting first full time week this week! We have been learning each other's names and making new friends. The children have settled so well and have been so excited about starting school. The children have been learning all about their new classroom environment and outside area. They have created their own pieces of art in our Creative area, had fun acting out stories in our small world area, shared stories with their friends in the Reading Garden area, explored the water and played with the cars in our Courtyard area as well as playing in the sand area, mud kitchen, large construction and on the bikes in our Garden area. There has been so much to see and experience in class! The children have been learning to be responsible and respectful with all our beautiful learning spaces, being taught to 'Choose it, Use it and Put it away' so that we keep our spaces safe and fun to play and learn in.

We will be starting Forest School next Friday so please send in a set of wellies that can stay in school and, if possible, a waterproof all in one if you can as we will go out in all weathers whenever possible. Our PE days are Tuesday and Friday every week, so please send them in wearing their PE kit on those days. Just a reminder that your child can have milk with their snack in the morning. This can be done through the Coolmilk website, <http://www.coolmilk.com/>.

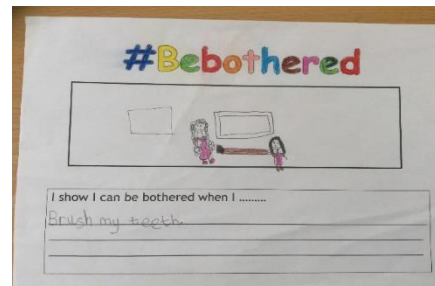
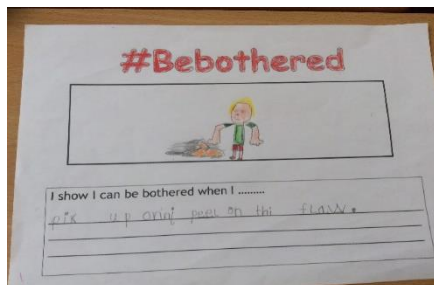


Year One and Two-

This week in KS1, we have started exploring our new topic of 'Back to School' where we are exploring the Victorian times. We started by creating a timeline of importance, events in History and seeing where the Victorian times would be placed. We then looked at pictures of High Ash from the Victorian times and compared it to the present day.



In our class assemblies we have been exploring our new theme of #bebothered. We talked about the importance of being bothered and how we can show this in our everyday life.



In Maths, Year 1 have been working hard on our counting and representation of numbers to 10. In Year 2, the children have been focusing on counting and representing numbers to 100.

We have also started our windmill constructions in DT where we have been looking at creating a stable base structure - using modelling clay to weigh it down. In Music, we started our unit on pulse and rhythm - singing a song all about our favourite foods!

Year Three and Four-

This week started with a bang! Our Hook Day for the start of our topic 'Pharaohs' was packed with hieroglyphics and learning all about mummification. During the afternoon, we learnt why hieroglyphics were used and what they meant to the Egyptians. Knowing this, we wrote our names in hieroglyphics! We had a fantastic time removing the insides of the orange and recreating the mummification process - we are sure the children will have told you all about it!



During our Geography lessons we have been identifying some of the world's countries! Using our knowledge of the continents we already knew from Year 1 and 2. We learnt that inside the world are continents, inside continents are countries and inside countries are regions and inside regions are cities! Ask us about what countries we know!



In PE we have started with Football and Netball. In Netball, we were learning about the basics of passing. Looking at how we have to stand, use our bodies and how to throw the ball quickly and effectively.



Year Five and Six-

This week has been jam-packed in Year 5/6, with many of our Year 6s taking their secondary school transfer tests. We began our PE lessons this week, with Mr Neary, our new PE coach and class teachers. This half-term, we are learning to develop and apply our football and netball skills. In our football lessons, we were working on controlling the ball and in netball we focused on our footwork.



This week saw the Year 5/6 children have their hook day for our topic this half-term; *Alchemy Island*. The children have been designing their own alchemy symbols. In addition, the children have been tasked with recreating a portion of the alchemist's island, which, when all of the pieces have been put together should create a large version of the map! Finally, the children have completed experiments which included making love heart sweets dance, making fireworks in water and finally the classic coke and mentos experiment.



Year 5 and 6 have been learning how to read maps! We started off looking at a section of the Ordnance Survey map for Great Brickhill, finding the church, school, pub, fisheries and other local features. Next we learned how to read and produce 4-figure grid references from OS maps to locate features precisely.



Play leaders...

Some members of Year 6 took part in their first training session to become Play Leaders. Tom, from the School Sports Partnership, trained the children in how to organise games for younger children to play, how to be a leader on the playground and next week they will receive their 'Restorative Conversation' training, to handle disputes. It was fantastic watching these Year 6s take part in the training and we look forward to seeing them put their knowledge into action at playtime!



Attendance...

This week's attendance is 96.6%. This has gone up from last week. I really want to keep attendance above 96%. Please remember to use absence@highashschool.co.uk if you need to report an absence.

Reflections this week....

This week our big question: 'Why is it important to 'own our choices?' We also discussed What is love? How do we show it to others? Through looking at bible quotes and parables, the children then identified where love was shown and how this tied in with ownership of choices. We also discussed Corinthians 13: 4-6 *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

Swimming Year 4

Year 4 swimming lessons begin next week, Tuesday 17th. The children need to bring a swimming costume (a one piece for girls), a towel and goggles if using them. If using goggles, your child must be able to put these on themselves, as staff are not allowed to help them. All parents must provide consent for their child to attend using this Google form: <https://forms.gle/jMoWXU1jZwAdomRt6>

If there have been any changes to your child's medical history, doctors, parents contact numbers etc., please click on the link below to re-submit the Medical Consent for Off-Site School Visit google form: <https://forms.gle/CxzgWJMR8Y8kjBLN8>

Foundation Parents information session and workshop...

On **Wednesday 25th September at 9.00-9.45am**, there is an information session for Foundation Parents about phonics and reading. It would be lovely to see many of you attend. If you wish to join us please click below to submit a short google form: <https://forms.gle/trU9i4x6uGMMJNKv5>

New Starters for September 2025...

Birth rate has dropped nationally and we have certainly seen this at High Ash this year. Please can you help us by spreading the word about how good it is at High Ash and encourage new parents to come and look at our lovely school. This year we are having **open mornings on the 9th October and 6th November**, so do please recommend us to any friends or family with children due to start school in September 2025. If you know of any good places to display posters, please speak to the office and it would be really helpful if you could share the details on social media. Thank you for your support



Calling all ASDA shoppers...

We have signed up to Asda's Cashpot for Schools scheme. Between now and the 30th November Asda is donating a percentage of what customers spend in store or online to their chosen primary schools. It doesn't cost you anything, you just need to register High Ash as your chosen school. Please click on the link below for more details and look out for the posters around school. Please encourage friends and family to choose High Ash too:

<https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

Inflatables Fun Day - Sunday 15th September

I am delighted to say we can now take payment on the gate of the HASA inflatables Fun Day and can continue to sell tickets via ParentPay up until midnight on Saturday. The weather looks like it should be getting warmer, so do come along for an afternoon of fun.



Stoke Hammond Community Breakfast -

Community Breakfast is back this month, this coming Saturday 14th September, in the Community Centre.

It would be lovely to see you, especially if you've not been before. You're assured of a warm welcome and are bound to know someone there.

We cater for all types of diet and start taking orders from 8.30am and last orders are at 10.30am sharp. There is no charge, but you may donate what you wish.

We are very happy to receive items for the **Food Bank** at the breakfast, but we would equally appreciate any financial contribution for the food bank fund.

Thanks to everyone who helps with it in any way. Let me know if you'd like to help out financially and feel free to get back to me if you'd like to play a part in the breakfast, or with any of St Luke's other community activities.

Kind regards

Dave
07711 026193

Have a super weekend and I look forward to seeing some of you on Sunday at the Fun on the Field event.

Kate Goodger

Mrs Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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