



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter Friday 20th September 2024

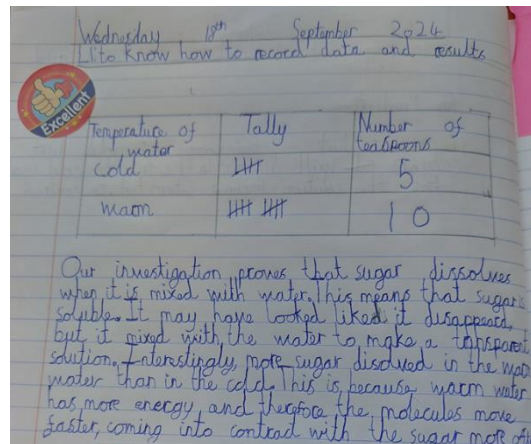
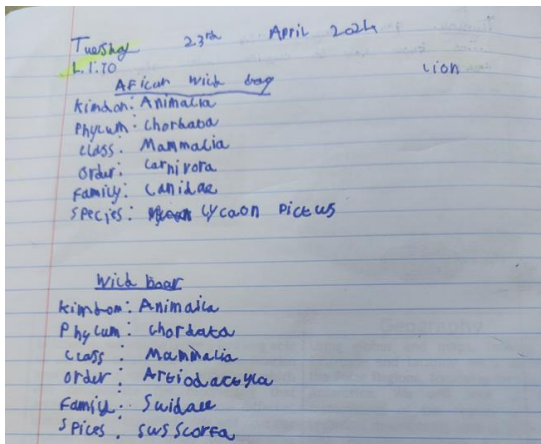


'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

What a week we have had - it has been a really positive week. The children have been working so hard and have really been demonstrating the 'D' in PROUD, being determined to improve. We have been focussing on handwriting across the school and I am blown away by the progress that a lot of the children have made. By focusing on handwriting first we are reducing cognitive load which will enable the children to focus more on the actual construction of the written word. I wanted to share with you Bertie's work in Year 6. The first picture is of his writing in May and the second picture is his work this week.



I am sure you will agree this is amazing progress. Bertie is not alone there are lots of our children who have made superb progress. Next week we actually start our writing curriculum, so I hope to be able to share the children's progress with their actual writing content.

We have also had our Local Authority advisor in to do their annual headline visit. She was very impressed with the pace of the lessons, children's engagement in learning and how calm behaviour was around the school. I am determined that we continue in this trajectory and build upon our great foundations.

Children's mid-morning snacks...

A reminder to all KS2 parents to send their children to school with a healthy snack as it is only F-KS1 children that receive government funded fruit/veg. As we are a nut free school, suitable snacks are a piece of fruit or vegetables. We are getting more children saying that they are hungry and we do not have anything to give them. Thank you.

Reminder - Reporting Absences reminder -

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 but please also send an email to absence@highashschool.co.uk. This email address is just for absences only, so we can update the registers as quickly as possible.

Reminder - 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 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 these into school on Friday morning. I look forward to seeing you there.

Inflatable Fun Day...

Thanks to all who came to the inflatable fun day on the field on Sunday. Great fun was had by all, and the weather was kind too. Here's our happy winner of the bottle flipping game. The extra games, snacks, drinks and treats went down well too! The next HASA event will be **Krispy Kreme doughnut day on October the 11th**. Pre orders will be available to book soon!



Learning highlights this week....

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

Acorns and Berries -

This week in Acorns we have been so excited to play together and learn how to take turns with each other in provision. The children have been learning more about how our provision works, who our adults are and how to 'choose it, use it, and put it away' being responsible for all of the wonderful things we have to access, both inside and outside of the classroom. It has been lovely to see how well the children are settling and how kind and caring they have been to each other when anyone has needed help. Now we are all settling in, we are looking forward to using Tapestry more to show you the 'Wow' moments your children have! Please sign up for access to Tapestry, so I can link you to your child.

This week the children learned how to do a watercolour wash and we looked at our facial features so that we could create beautiful portraits! We have also started our phonics sessions in class and have sent home our first sounds along with a sheet that will help you to practise letter formation at home. We have also been learning how to grip our pencil well in our hands using the two best friends (thumb and index finger) to hold our pencil and the pillow (middle finger) to support our pencil underneath.

A big thank you to all of our wonderful new families who have helped transition their little ones so well! We've had a wonderful start to our journey together.



Reminder - 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>

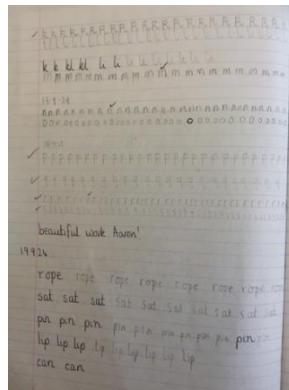
Foundation - See Us Shine

We are hosting our first 'See Us Shine' open morning this school year on **Friday 4th October at 9am**. You are invited to come into the Acorn classroom and spend some time with us. Mrs Bird will have activities linked to their learning for you to explore with your children and we will share what we've been learning this term. Please book your attendance below by clicking on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/noVm3qnJ6PmK5K337>

Year One and Two-

This week in KS1, we have continued to work hard on our handwriting in English where we have been focused on the correct formation and letter size. In Maths, Year 1 have been looking at counting backwards within 10 and finding one more and one less. In Year 2, the children have been resilient in trying to partition two-digit numbers in lots of different ways.



In History, we have continued to explore Victorian schools and classrooms in preparation for our **Victorian Hook Day next Tuesday 24th September 2024**. The children can come into school dressed as a Victorian school child but please do not feel like you need to buy a whole new costume - a flat cap or a mop cap will do just fine!

We have also enjoyed nominating and voting for our new members of the JLT team and Eco team this week. Well done to our new JLT team which is Beck and Marcie (Cherry), Nancy-Marie (Apple), Theo and Georgia (Chestnut). Also a super well done to our new Eco team, which is Oscar and Georgina (Cherry), Rory (Apple), Henry L and Ananya (Chestnut).

In DT, we have continued with our windmill structures and some of us have been inspired to innovate our own in provision!



In RE, we enjoyed creating our own creations using elements of nature from our forest school. We are linking this in to our learning about God being the creator of all things in the world.



Year Three and Four-

This week Year 4 had an exciting, yet tiring Tuesday! We started our swimming lessons for the Autumn Term. Everyone was so determined to showcase their best swimming skills and we were all so proud of you! Well done Year 4, we can't wait to see how much you will improve.

In History this week we have been learning more about the Egyptian symbols and what they represent. Looking at the symbols, we already knew we decided to use our existing knowledge and take educated guesses about what we thought they signified and how important to the Ancient Egyptians they were.



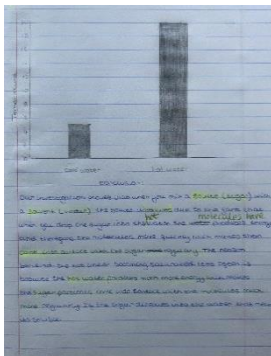
Our Geography lessons have been full of the Geographical features of Europe! We started with looking at the different words we would associate with Europe, trying to decide what landmarks and features were the most well-known. We even completed our own inter-railing journey to a European country.



Year Five and Six-

With the secondary school transfer tests out of the way, we have had a much more straight-forward week! In guided reading, we have started our new text - The Tempest. We are reading an adaption of Shakespeare's famous play, written by Andrew Matthews. So far, we have been introduced to Prospero, Caliban and Ariel. We have discussed our initial impressions of the characters and applied this, with evidence from the text, into written answers.

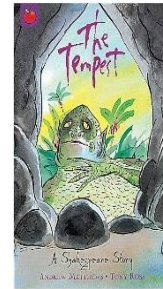
This week in Science, we have conducted an experiment investigating whether the temperature of water affects how soluble it is when 'gold dust' is added to create a solvent. We recorded our results and then presented these in our books as a tally chart and a bar chart.



I predict that 5 teaspoons of gold dust (Sugar) will dissolve in the cold water before the solution becomes saturated. In contrast, I think that 15 teaspoons of gold dust will dissolve in the warm water.

	Teaspoons	Total
Cold water		5
Warm water		30

Prospero because he's a wizard and he tries to kill people with the weather.
Ariel because he looks pretty. He creates a love for him and his daughter.
Caliban because he's prepared to keep a spirit and Caliban. He do his dirty work so he can acquire his love and get his justice.



Since returning to school after the summer, we have all been practising our handwriting in preparation to our new approach to teaching English called 'I am a Clever Writer'. Every day the children have been learning how to correctly form and join their letters and we are seeing vast improvements.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 95%. This has gone down from last week. I really want to keep attendance above 96%. Please remember to use absence@highhashschool.co.uk if you need to report an absence.

Reflections this week...

This week we looked at the story Giraffes can't dance. In the story Gerald is told by the other jungle animals that he can't dance and he should go away. Gerald does walk away, yet then thinks why should he give up when he can dance, it is just different to what others do. The children thought about what advice they would give to Gerald and how they could also take their own advice in situations that happen to them. We looked at Proverbs 14:23 *All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.* The children thought about what this might mean to a Christian and to them - how might it change their behaviour.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs Kate Goodger
Headteacher

headteacher@highhashschool.co.uk