



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter
Friday 27th September 2024
'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We have had another busy week. We had visits from the Local Authority's Early Years Advisor who was impressed with the provision in our Early Years. We have also had the Read Write Inc. Consultant in on a development day to check that we are delivering phonics as the scheme intends. There were lots of strengths with our teaching and a few areas we need to continue to work on. Mr Simmonds and I were in London yesterday attending the Challenge Partners launch conference. This year we have become a Challenge Partners' school. Challenge Partners are a charity, owned and led by schools who work together to lead school improvement. They believe that, when schools are working in partnership to continually improve their practice, an excellent education for all pupils will be achieved. Challenge Partners are made up of over 550 schools and over 110 school trusts, from all different backgrounds across the country, who recognise that they are stronger together and that collaboration is the key to continued success. They exist to support schools in that role by facilitating constructive collaboration and challenge between them and providing a platform for activities which would not be possible for a school to undertake on its own. Together they aspire to become a world-class, knowledge-sharing community, which leads the way in school improvement and raises the standards of education for all. We will be sharing more with you about our work with Challenge Partners over the year.

Census Day - School Lunches...

We're all enjoying having hot meals served in the Ash Tree again. It's a delight to see the children sitting in the dining room and chatting away about their morning while they eat their lunch. The meals have been very popular, especially the return of the Mid-Week Roast and the children are loving the homemade fruit crumbles. We are lucky to have our own kitchen on site and to have freshly prepared lunches each day. Some of the new children who joined High Ash September have been saying we have the best school meals they have ever had, so that's been really pleasing to hear.

Census Day is coming up soon on ***Thursday 3rd October*** - this is the day when the Government asks us to count the number of children having a school meal. This is really important as it forms the basis of the grant funding we receive. If you have children in Foundation or Years 1/2, please book a meal on this day and help us avoid losing out on the funding we're entitled to for your child. If you book a school meal on this day to help support our funding, but your child prefers a packed lunch, they do not have to have the prepared school meal, you are welcome to send your child to school with a packed lunch. Please just email kitchen@highashschool.co.uk to let them know.

Don't forget, if you have any queries about the meals served then don't hesitate to contact Michelle or Lizzie in The Ash Tree. They will do their very best to help.

Piano lessons...

Mrs Gommon, our piano teacher, has a space available for piano lessons from January onwards. Lessons are £18 per week for 30 minute, 1:1 tuition, taking place during the school day on Thursdays. Spaces are open to any child aged 5 or over.

Spaces will be offered first come first served, so please contact Mrs Gommon directly if you would like to book a place - juliagommonmusic@gmail.com.

Learning highlights this week...

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

Acorns and Berries -

So 'How do I feel?' That was our big question of the week this week! We used the 'Colour Monster' story to explore and identify our feelings and work on ways to recognise those feelings on ourselves and in our friends too. We have also talked about how we calm, ways that we calm and taking calming breaths together for when we feel upset. We created our own colour monsters this week! We used our improving pencil grips. We also looked at the book 'Only One You' and created our own fish! We learned about the word 'Unique'. We are all unique and special!

Tapestry information is ready to share! We will need you to complete the permission reply slip and either email it back to the office showing us you have given consent or you can print it and enclose it in your child's diary for us to receive. We will then use the email address that you provide to link you to your child's account so you can see observation posts and can begin posting your own from home. We will only be posting wow moments on Tapestry as we are focusing on being with the children and moving their learning on in provision.

Just a quick reminder, please if you have not yet provided photo permissions with the office so that we can share more photos of what we have been doing each week in the newsletter, please click below to submit a google form:

<https://forms.gle/5h7vGpFxeSFTpW3r8>

A huge thank you to the parents who attended our EYFS phonics information session. I hope it was informative and that we have reassured you that we are on this learning journey together with you and your children. The presentation has been sent to you via Parentpay yesterday, however, you can also view it on our website. Please clicking below:

<https://www.highashschool.co.uk/page/?title=supporting+your+child%27s+learning+at+home&pid=37>



Reminder - Foundation - See Us Shine...

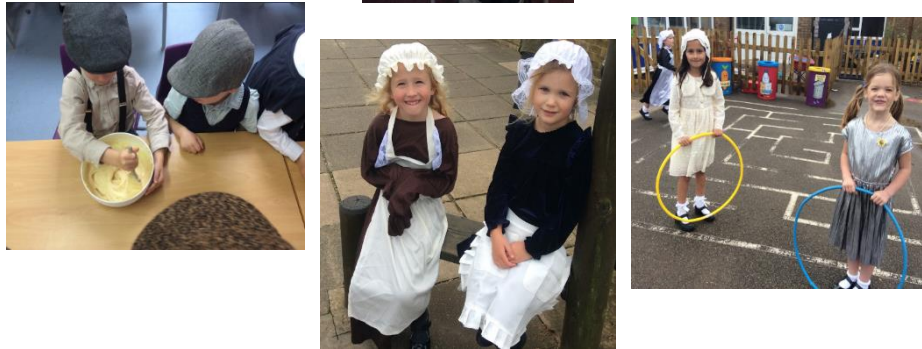
We are hosting our first 'See Us Shine' open morning this school year on Friday 4th October at 9am. You are invited to come into the Acorn classroom and spend some time with us. Mrs Bird will have activities linked to their learning for you to explore with your children and we will share what we've been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

<https://forms.gle/noVm3qnJ6PmK5K337>

Year One and Two-

KS1 had the best day immersing themselves into their Victorian school day this week. All the children turned up in fantastic costumes for a day of Victorian activities. The children started the day sat in rows with the boys on one side and the girls on the other side. Miss Webb, Mrs Webb and Mrs Barrasford all took their roles as strict teachers very seriously!

The children learnt all about Victorian school rules such as 'children are seen but not heard' as well as that all children must write with their right hand! They then took part in a handwriting lesson where they used chalk on a piece of black paper and had to recite some number facts by memory.



During the morning, all the children made a traditional Victorian sponge cake after learning that it was named after Queen Victoria and that afternoon tea had started during her reign as Queen. In the afternoon, the children took part in a drill session as well as making peg dolls and wooden lolly stick boats.



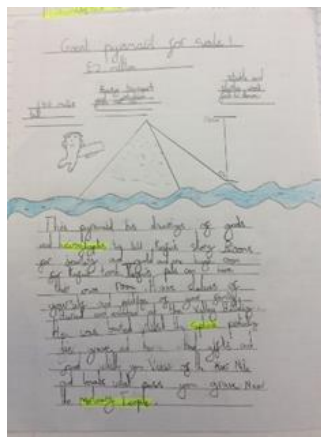
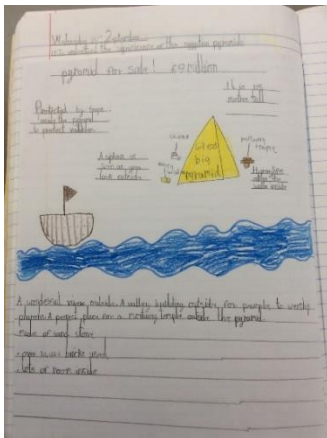
The children also received their homework for this half term. This is due back after half term on **Monday 4th November 2024**

Year Three and Four-

This week in Art we have been looking at creating different bases to work on. The Egyptians would have used papyrus paper to work and draw on so we have been experimenting with different ways to do this! After we had created our colour washes we practised drawing some interesting Egyptian symbols before adding them to our work. We have had some very creative starts and some beautiful bases to create Egyptian Artwork on!



During our History lessons we have been reminding ourselves all about mummification and how the process works. To do this we created presentations all about how to mummify a pharaoh, showing the different stages and including our keywords to ensure our understanding. We also created our own 'pyramid for sale' adverts. Looking at making them persuasive and informative! Showing the benefits of living in a pyramid and why the pharaoh should choose ours. We have some budding estate agents in our midst.

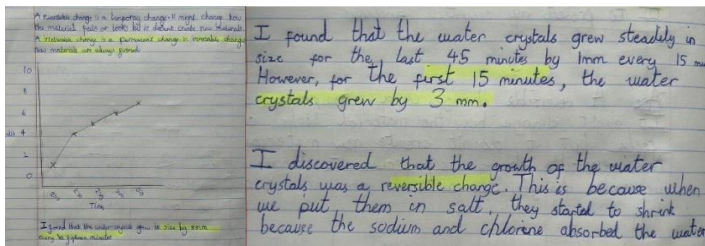


Our French lessons have been packed with emotions. We have been understanding how to say how we feel and learning how to ask people how they are feeling. We played a game this week to see how many different emotions we could say correctly and even had a conversation using our previous knowledge of greetings.



Year Five and Six-

This week in science we have conducted an investigation to better help us understand reversible and irreversible changes. We noted the growth of beads in water over a given period of time. We then looked at how we present our findings as a bar graph and drawing a conclusion from this.



In English, we have been learning the skills required to write an effective retell of the story 'The Lost Happy Endings'. We have been using complex sentences, adverbials of place and time, direct speech and using alternative sentence openers to create interesting and coherent pieces of writing. Next week, we will be using the same text to write a vivid character description of the horrid witch!

Scattered on the ground, July dreamed of a glistening golden pen that could write words on the fresh blue sky. When July woke up she was in a room where the golden pen was lying there. July put up and stared in awe. She stepped up and picked up the golden pen. She started to write. The writing was wobbly, as if it had a touch of magic. Trying as hard as she could, July wrote of the most terrible ending for the witch. As this happened, July waited for it to come true.

The woman spun green spiders at July who stumbled and fell in shock.

In the evening hours, July dreamed of a pen that could write endings in the sky, leaving in shock the pen she had approached! Then she wrote the final moments of the witch's life. As the sun rose, the sock of endings materialised materialised. Just in time, July released all the happy ending leaving the children with a smile on their face.

In the evening hours, July was told upon a full moon how beads from the golden pen had set the happy endings free.

Deep in the heart of the forest, July was perched at the top of a grand oak tree and there she released the endings into the night like setting an animal free after months in care.

Carving into the sunset of her life, the old hag crumpled the bag out of her hand, leaving July shocked.

Surprised, July, an old girl with holes the precious bag and set of into the night.

The heads and eyes of children filled the sky as they heard the sack endings.

July sniggered. A bearded old woman roared. "Haha damn, what's in the sack?" "Pigeons take me please," said July. "The woman spun green spiders at July who stumbled and fell in shock." "A bearded old woman stopped July. "Why hello little girl, what's on the sack?" "There's nothing in the sack, please leave me alone," whined July.

July sniggered. A grotesque old hag stopped and questioned young July. "Why hello young lady, what's in the bag?" "There's nothing in the sack, please leave me alone on instead," whined July.

Mummy Daddy I am scared, what's going to happen to Cinderella?" said the young children. "Being young will be okay," said the parents.

Using the Ordnance Survey maps, we have been developing our topographical skills. In our geography lessons, we studied the maps and identified where the contour lines were and what these meant. Using this knowledge, we created a 3D contour map of Great Brickhill.



Reminder - Year 6 Residential week, Monday 30th Sept - Friday 4th October...

For those children that are joining us on the residential trip, may we please remind you to ensure you send your child to school with a packed lunch and water bottle with non-fizzy drinks in a ruck sack for the journey. When packing your child's kit for the week, please remember to pack a pillow, sleeping bag, blanket if needed for cooler evenings, waterproofs, spare shoes and the essential toiletries, such as toothpaste/toothbrush, showergel and towel(s).

If your child requires any medication, such as travel sickness tablets or any other medication we do not already have in school with forms, you will need to complete an administer medication form and return this to school with the medication clearly labelled with your child's name and sign this medication in on Monday morning. Thank you.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94.7%. This has gone down again 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 we looked at whether we could be bothered to make a stance even if we thought there was no chance of changing the outcome. We did this through looking at the bible reading of David and Goliath. We talked about how David could have just given up and let Goliath have his own way as he was so big and strong yet David felt that Goliath was wrong so had the courage to stand up and make a change. Which as you know worked! The children then thought about being bothered to make a difference by supporting MacMillan Coffee event this week. They enjoyed researching what MacMillan do, why then need the money and then making posters to advertise the coffee event.

HASA - Krispy Kreme doughnut box fundraiser...

Show your support for High Ash school with original glazed Krispy Kreme doughnuts on **Friday October 11th**.

Pre-order 6 original glazed doughnuts for £7 or 12 for £13. Single doughnuts available on the day at £1.50 each whilst stocks last **Collection Friday 11th October** either from the Treat Friday stall at High Ash pick up (3:20-3:40pm) or Great Brickhill Cricket Club on Rotten Row from 4pm onwards.

Thank you for your support! order via Parentpay or <https://highash.sumupstore.com/product/krispy-kreme-doughnut-box>



Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs Kate Goodger
Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk