



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 4th October 2024

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

The school has been quieter this week as the Year 6 have been on their residential to Shropshire. The children have had great experiences kayaking, canoeing, abseiling, climbing, orienteering to name just a few of the activities. It has been a super week albeit a bit damp at times! It is always a privilege to see the children in a different context overcoming some fears they might have and achieving things they never thought were possible. I have to thank Miss Whitehead, Mrs Stanley, Miss Reeves and Miss Lee for giving up their time and taking the children. I'm looking forward to hearing about their adventures next week!

Harvest Festival in Church for Key Stage 2...

We are looking forward to visiting St Mary's Church for our Harvest Festival with Year 2 to Year 6 children on **Wednesday 16th October**. Year 3 and 4 will be leading the service. If you are able to help walk the children down to the church, please confirm this at the time of booking your seats online. We will be leaving school at 1.30pm for a 1.45pm start in the church. Space is limited yet it would be lovely to see some of the parents join us in our worship. Please click [here](#) to book your seats. Online bookings will be live tonight at 8.00pm and will close midday Monday 14th October. Thank you.

Harvest Festival collection...

This year we will be collecting again for the MK Food Cupboard. We ask all families to help us 'Let out light shine' by bringing to school at least one tin or packet which will then be sent to the food bank and distributed to a family in need. Please bring your tin or packet to school from next week, Monday 9th October. Let's really show those families in need that we care.

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 is a reminder that we are having our **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. Any interested parents will need to email the office to book their preferred date and time slot from 9.30-11.30am.

Parents Evening...

This year our Autumn parents evening is being held on **Tuesday 15th October 3.30pm - 6pm and Wednesday 16th October 5pm - 7.30pm**. Please see the separate letter to book you slots with your child's class teacher. Online bookings will be live tonight at 8pm and will close midday Friday 11th October.

Learning highlights this week...

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

Acorns -

Our big question this week was 'what is inside me?' We used the 'Funny Bones' story to explore and identify our bones! We named some of the bones that we know like our skull, rib bones, leg bones, and finger bones! In provision, we tried making our own skeleton pictures using art straws. We used our fine motor skills to cut up the straws so that they were the right size and stuck them down using glue. It was a lot of fun! We also tried putting together some skeleton models in a tough tray, it was very fiddly but we learned to persevere.

This week we continued our phonics sessions and the children are doing so well! We have been learning how to say our new sounds, how to blend them orally to say words and how to write them with the help of our friend Fred. In our Maths sessions, the children have learned all about submitting which is looking at a group of objects and saying how many there are without counting them.

We also looked at the steps we follow to count objects as well, ensuring we count each one, only count each object once and then stop when we've counted them all. We learned that we can count things we cannot see like drum beats, claps and finger clicks.

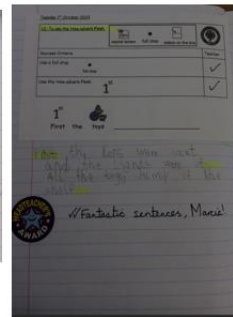
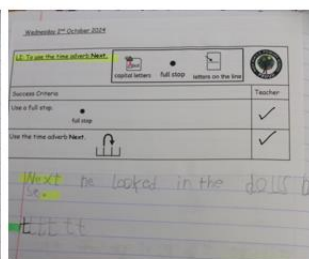
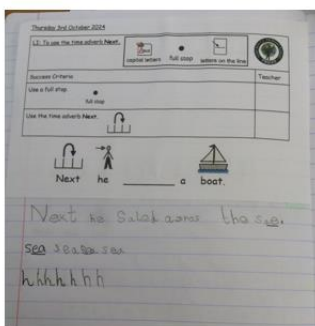
We were excited to visit the library this week and choose a reading for pleasure book to share at home. We also sent home our wordless books for the children to look at the pictures and tell you the story from them.

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our first See us Shine session today!



Year One and Two-

This week in KS1, we have all been focusing really hard on our writing. In Year 1, we started our first writing unit all about the 'Toy Museum' by David Lucas. We have been learning to use the time adverbials 'First', 'Next' and 'Finally' in our sentences. In Year 2, the children have been completing a writing unit on the book 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes. The children have been learning to use a range of openers to start each sentence.



In Maths, Year 1 have been focusing on comparing numbers using the < > and = symbols, as well as ordering numbers from smallest to greatest. We enjoyed exploring the character of 'Blockzilla' in Number blocks to help us and practise this practically on our tables. In Year 2, the children have been continuing learning about place value to 100, with a particular focus on estimating using a number line. The children had a lot of fun practically exploring this outside on the playground!



In History, we have been exploring some of the school equipment in Victorian times such as an abacus, quill and a slate. We discussed what they might have been used for and compared them to the equipment we use today.



Year Three and Four-

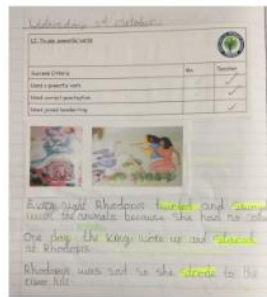
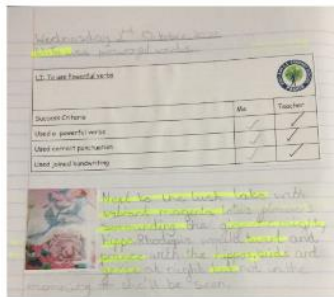
It has been another action packed week for Year 3 and 4! This week in computing we have been learning all about how to compare activities using digital and non-digital approaches. To test this, we used chrome books and paper, we created the same piece of art to see which one would suit our needs.



In History our learning has been focussed on the Valley of the Kings and understanding its importance to the Egyptian people and why they chose to make the change from burying Pharaohs in pyramids. To help us build on our already substantial knowledge we played the 'tell me more' game to verbalise and internalise our facts.



It has been a brilliant second week of using our new English guide 'I Am A Clever Writer' and my goodness do we have some clever writers! Both this week and last week we have been focussing on retells of 'The Hare and the Tortoise' and 'The Egyptian Cinderella' making sure to understand and perfect our skills before including them in our writing. We have had some fantastic pieces of writing that have included all the skills practised this week along with some wonderful handwriting!



Art has been a successful lesson again this week with even more creativity shining through. We have been looking at ways to decorate our scrolls to create different textures that we may draw and paint over when creating our final pieces. To do this we used tissue, crate and coloured paper along with some cardboard and we even used tracing paper to create overlays. Next week we will be looking at creating our own papyrus paper - so watch this space!

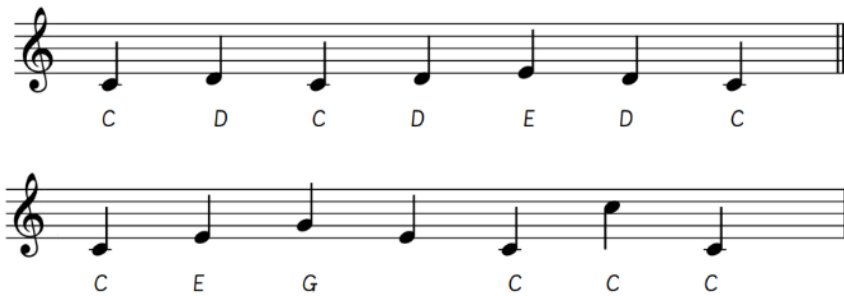


Year Five and Six-

There has been some fabulous learning in Geography this week. After learning about the component parts of a compass, including new vocabulary such as bezel, the children plotted a course around the field using the four cardinal points (North, South, East and West) and the four inter-cardinal points (NE, NW, SE and SW). Bring on the treasure maps - we're ready to find buried gold!



In music, we have been learning to sing a song, Egypt the gift of the Nile, in parts, then we have learned how to accompany the song on chime bars. This week, the children began to learn how to read traditional stave notation and played their chime bars accurately to this written music:



We have started to think about composing our own tunes to perfect next week - it's great fun!



In science we have learnt how some changes result in the formation of new materials. First, we mixed yeast with warm water before adding that to hydrogen peroxide. The results in Oak class were rather dramatic!



This week we have been working on a character description on the witch in *The Lost Happy Endings*. We have explored using noun phrases and metaphors to make our language more vivid and descriptive.

Thursday 3rd October 2025 2024
 To use metaphors to describe a character

Date Four		
Success Criteria	Me	Teacher
Use metaphors	✓	
All letters are sat on the line in every word	✓	

The ferocious old hag was a repulsive snake that slithered through the forest and took all the happy endings as it slithered through the dark misty quiet forest.

The grumpy old crow was a hideous brantula who makes sure there are no happy endings in the world.

The horrendous woman was a blood sucking vampire but she roamed around the forest all day.

To use metaphors to describe a character

Date Four		
Success Criteria	Me	Teacher
Use metaphors		
All letters are sat on the line in every word		

The timid hag was a hermit ready to sting and watch flour. Soul slowly wither and die. The hippogriff happy village who claps screeched horrendously like death on a chalkboard. The witch's warty cavity-pegged teeth were from a piranha just as for goodly time. The snake of a woman slink along the maze of spindly tall tree trunks.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94%. 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 have been looking at the Bible reading "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." 2 Chronicles 15:7. Using this quote we have been thinking about: Do we always make an effort to be the best at our work and academic achievements? As part of our #bebothered campaign the children have really thought about whether as a class they are always ready to learn and do they always work hard. The children had to rate themselves out of 10 - 10 being always and 1 being never. Then the teachers rated their classes and I rated them. Most scores

were between 7 -9, with the children rating themselves slightly higher than the staff! So there is a little room for improvement and we will continue to strive towards each class and the staff giving the children a 10 for excellent learning behaviours!

HASA update!

Thanks to everyone who has been donating uniform for HASA to sell on our Pre-Loved stall. At the moment we can only accept jumpers & cardigans with the school logo. We're finding little demand for unbranded items and we already have a lot of existing stock.

On the last Friday of every month we'll have a physical sale of these logo items, but can take orders at any time through our online store <https://highash.sumupstore.com/products>. However, we are now accepting donations of seasonal pre-loved clothing, which we'll sell on the stall at treat Fridays. Great condition waterproofs, hats, gloves, scarves & wellies would be great. This will be good for the planet, your pockets if you buy pre-loved instead of new at full price, and help HASA raise more money for school. Please leave in the box at reception and please only donate items in good condition.

Reminder - 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>



Online Safety...

To view the latest online safety newsletter on our website please click [here](#).

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon...

Thank you all so much for joining us last week, Friday 27th September at the Macmillan fund raising charity and thank you to all parents for supporting this event. Whether you donated cakes for sale or donated funds for the cause, your support is always very much appreciated. We hope you enjoyed the treats and the time spent in school during the event. We have now counted the cash collected on the day and can confirm we have raised £562. This is cash donations only, some of you may have donated via the QR Code. Thank you once again for all your support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Goodger

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