



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 18th October 2024

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

This week we took Years 2 to 6 to church for our Harvest Festival. It was a lovely service and I am very proud of the Year 3 and 4 children who learnt their lines really well and reminded us to think about those who do not have enough to eat. Thank you to all the families who have brought in donations for the Bletchley Food Cupboard.

It has also been lovely to see you all at Parent's evening - the children love to show their work and the teachers love to share with you your child's achievements over the term so far.

This afternoon we are welcoming Callum Anderson our MP, into school. We will report back to you all in next week's newsletter on what we learnt and the answers to the questions our Year 5 and 6 children asked him.

Commando Joe...

We will be saying goodbye to Commando Jess on Wednesday. She'll be working with different schools after half term. Commando Lawrence, an ex-marine, will be joining us from the 6th November. Lawrence will be supported by Commando Pete for the first week or two. Pete has returned to Commando Joe's in a new managerial role - the children were very excited to see him when he popped in for a visit on Wednesday.

Wraparound...

The media has been reporting lately that many employers are requiring their staff to return to the office. We do have spaces available in both our morning and afternoon wraparound care if you think your work arrangements may be changing. We can take *ad hoc* bookings too if you just need an occasional booking. Email the office to check availability

Learning highlights this week...

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

Foundation (Acorns) -

This week we have looked at the story Supertato and compared how he helps his friends to how we help our friends in class and what it means to be a hero. Then we were shocked when, after talking about how we have all learned how to make the right choices in our class and how to be heroes, we found a part of our classroom had been trashed by the evil peas from our story! We talked about what to do and what choices the peas should be making. We talked about what would be the appropriate consequence for Evil Pea if we were able to catch him and what he could do to make things better. We even built traps and created wanted posters to warn the other classes about the evil peas!



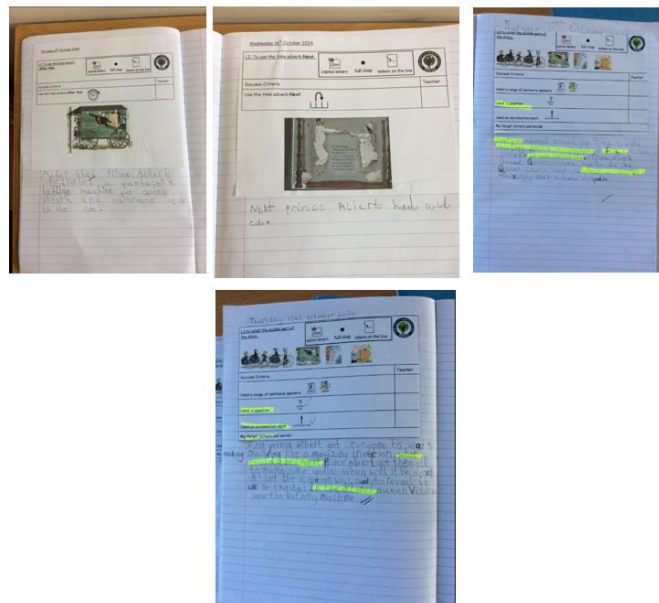
In Maths we have been learning more about subitising and the composition of numbers to 4. We used multilink cubes to make different arrangements of the number 4 and we talked about the composition of it. One and one and one and one makes four, two and two makes four, three and one makes four.

In Music, we have explored what sounds we can hear in the environment around us. We went on a nature walk in our school grounds and stopped, listened and identified what sounds we could hear. We have created more of our own art creations using our water colour painting skills. We have also used the large construction to create superhero bases and obstacle courses. Working together and communicating as well as making a strong structure that is stable.

Reminders! Our PE days are Tuesday and Friday. Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit on these days. We change library and reading books every Thursday, so please ensure they are in school for us. If you haven't sent back your permissions for Tapestry, please do so as soon as you can via the office so that we can ensure it is fully launched for everyone.

Year One and Two-

KS1 have had yet another busy week! In English, the children have been looking at the story called 'Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine' by Gloria Whelan. In Year 1, we have been practising our time adverbials to retell a story whilst Year 2 have continued to use different sentence openers as well as questions. We are all so impressed with the progress of the children's handwriting skills!



In Maths, Year 1 has been exploring fact families using part whole models and bar models. This was a tricky skill to master but we had a lot of fun practically investigating this in class. In Year 2, the children have been mastering how to count in 3s within 100.

In Computing, the children have enjoyed using the Paintzapp to draw images as well as write their own name within as a text box.



Next week, Year 1 classes (Cherry and Apple) would like to invite parents into the classroom on **Friday morning, 25th October** for their first ever innovate event between **8:40 and 9:10am** to see what the children have been learning about in History. It will be a chance to explore different activities with your child.

Year 2 will be delivering their innovate slightly differently this half term through their class assembly next **Friday 25th October. Doors open at 2.05pm, starts at 2.15pm** - we can't wait to see you there!.

If you have any of your costumes from our Victorian hook day and you would be happy to lend these to Chestnut class for their performance, please hand them to Mrs Barrasford - you'll get them back at the end of Friday afternoon. Thank you!

Year Three and Four-

This week we had the big task of hosting the Harvest Service at church. A lot of practice and line learning had gone into making each bible reading work seamlessly. We are very proud of everyone who spoke and held pictures or props and I am sure you are all proud too. Thank you to everyone who came to watch and support us.

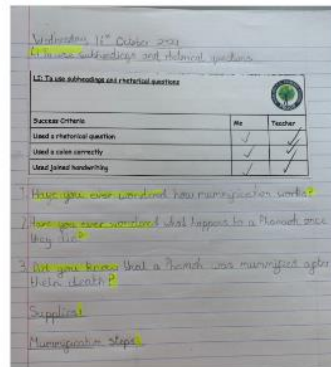
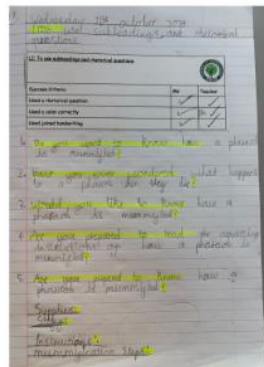
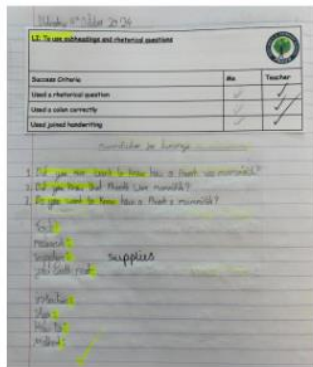
In Art this week we have finished making our Egyptian style scrolls. We used the papyrus paper we made last week and transferred our design from our books onto the paper. Each design was so unique and showed several different artistic skills like using paint to colour blend and oil pastels to help create texture and shading.



In music we have been performing our composed pieces from last week. Looking at discipline and coordination, making sure we are singing at the right time and listening to each other to create a cohesive performance. We used percussion instruments to emulate a Viking battle ground as they would have sung battle songs before fighting. We have some fantastic musicians and composers on our hands!



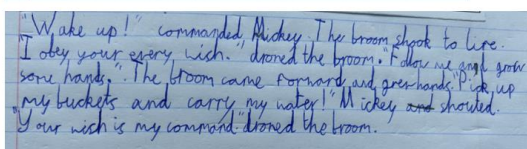
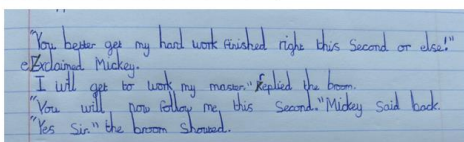
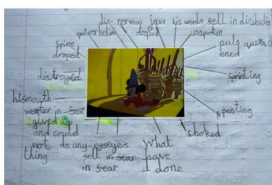
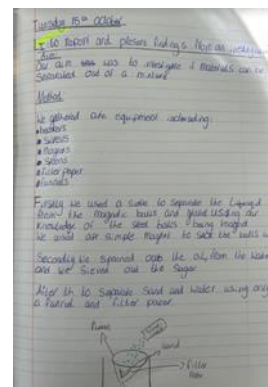
Our English lessons have consisted of creating an instruction text all about how to mummify a pharaoh. We have been including rhetorical questions, subheadings, ly adverbs and imperative verbs. Across the classes we have had some very imaginative headings and some interesting rhetorical questions. In our writing, we have been incorporating skills we have learnt in previous weeks such as time openers and conjunctions to connect sentences together.



Year Five and Six-

In Science this week, we have started to write up our investigation regarding separation of materials. We used time adverbials, technical language and a diagram to clearly explain our processes. This is all in preparation for the very messy, multi-faceted (and frankly very messy) separation challenges we will complete next week for our Innovate!

In English this week, we have been writing a recount of Disney's Fantasia. We have been considering how to create tension in our writing using a variety of techniques including short sentences, 'show, don't tell' and dialogue. As always, we're super proud of the work the children have produced.



Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94%. 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.

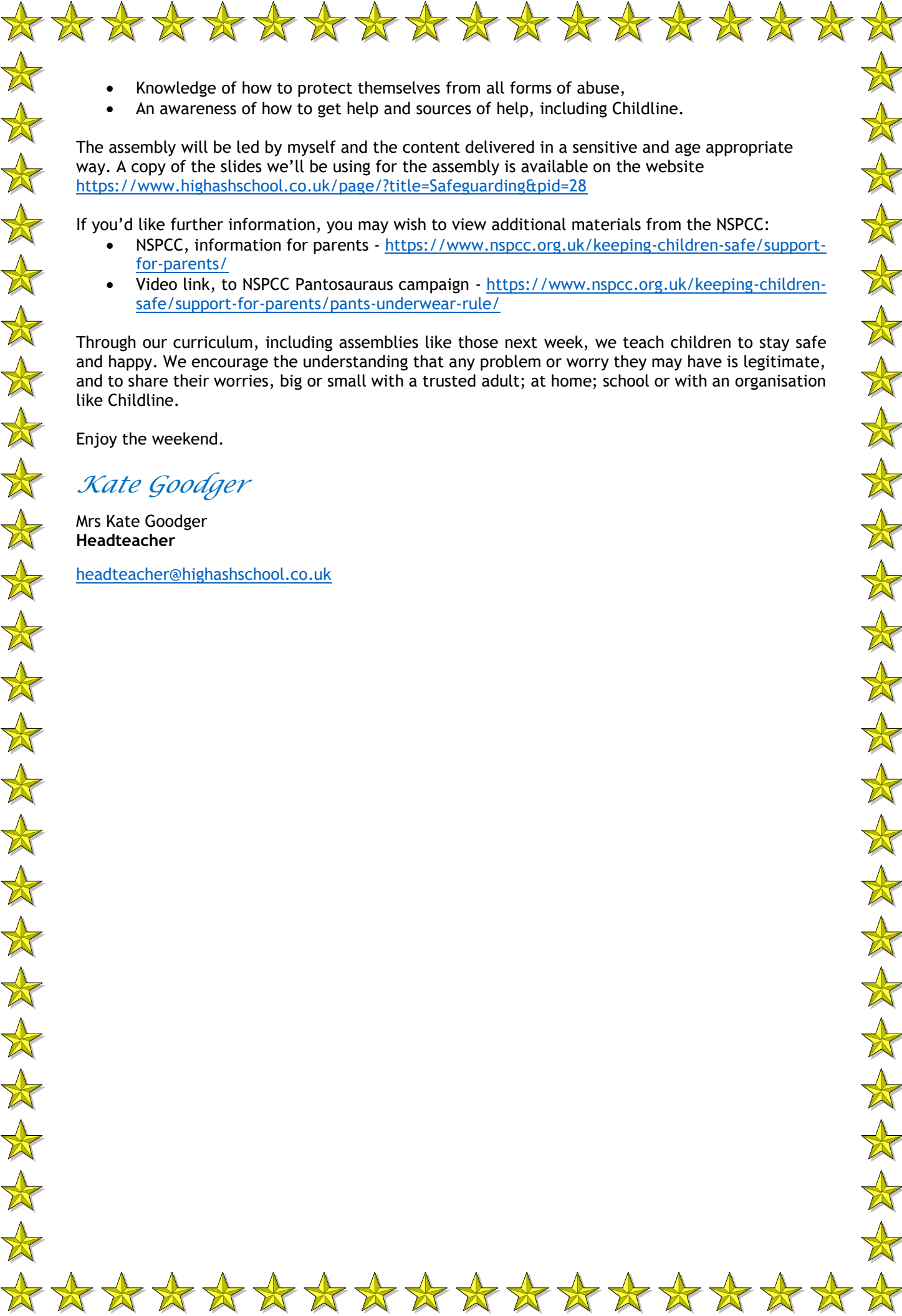
Reflections this week....

In this week's reflection, our big question was 'Are we bothered enough about our surroundings?' We talked about the damage we can do by dropping litter, using the car too much, not recycling, not turning off electrical appliances. Although these things may seem little, it is the ripple effect that these little things can grow into extraordinary things. We looked at the Bible reading 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it' from Genesis 2:15. We discussed how we could do better at taking care of our surroundings.

Reflections next week...

During assembly on Monday 21st October we will be talking to the children about how to keep themselves safe. The assembly aims to give children:

- An understanding of different forms of abuse, including bullying,
- An ability to recognise the signs of harm or abuse,

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- Knowledge of how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse,
 - An awareness of how to get help and sources of help, including Childline.

The assembly will be led by myself and the content delivered in a sensitive and age appropriate way. A copy of the slides we'll be using for the assembly is available on the website <https://www.highhashschool.co.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=28>

If you'd like further information, you may wish to view additional materials from the NSPCC:

- NSPCC, information for parents - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>
- Video link, to NSPCC Pantosaurus campaign - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Through our curriculum, including assemblies like those next week, we teach children to stay safe and happy. We encourage the understanding that any problem or worry they may have is legitimate, and to share their worries, big or small with a trusted adult; at home; school or with an organisation like Childline.

Enjoy the weekend.

Kate Goodger

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