



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 25th October 2024

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We have had a great week this week, children have been demonstrating the knowledge they have acquired over the half term through their innovate pieces of work. We also welcomed Acorn class into our whole school assembly for the first time and they did brilliantly! This year we have 2 football teams representing High Ash, a Year 6 mixed team and a Y5/6 Girls' team. This week we have had a Girls football match - this is our first ever girls football team - read the report to find out how we did!

Governor Updates...

Every September the Governors re-elect positions on the Board, I'm pleased to share the following appointments with you:

- Co-Chairs of Governors: Kathryn Middleton and Jemma Clamp
- Vice Chair of Governors: Ami Penolver
- Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee: David Carroll
- Chair of Finance & Personnel Committee: Marcus Feinhols

You can find out more about the other roles Governors undertake here:

<https://www.highashschool.co.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=18>

Y6 Football match report from Friday 18th October...

It was a great first half with a fantastic goal from Leo in the early stages of the first half followed by another great goal from Leo as we went 2-0 up in ten minutes. We celebrated as a team and were all delighted. Swanbourne scored not long after to make it 2-1 but we kept trying and didn't complain. Max made brilliant saves as well to keep it 2-1 to High Ash.

In the second half Callum, Darcey and Miles played it out nicely from the back and Emma, Senara and Owen made brilliant runs down the lines to progress the ball further up the pitch. Swanbourne equalized with a great goal from their striker to make the game 2-2. Not long after Swanbourne scored again to make the game 2-3, we kept going and got on with it. But unfortunately the game came to an end and we lost 2-3. We showed great sportsmanship by shaking their hands and congratulated them on winning. Swanbourne decided to give our player of the match to Callum as he played really well and played fantastic passes forward to our attacking players.

A massive thank you to Mr Simmonds for refereeing and coaching the team and to the parents who gave up your time to come and cheer us on.

By Callum Q and Leo H

Y5/6 Girls' football match...

The match was a great success as we won 2-0. We would like to say a big thank you to all of the supporters on the side lines. Our goal scorers were Cali and Aria. The girls do not normally get to play so we were proud to give it a go. Well done to Emilia for keeping a clean sheet throughout the whole match. Well done to Senara for being the captain and showing great leadership.

Thank you Miss Whitehead for being a great coach and cheering us on. Also, a massive thank you to Mr Simmonds for volunteering to be the referee.



By Senara and Cali

Individual/Sibling Photographs...

All our children will be photographed individually and with their siblings in school on the morning of **Wednesday 13th November**. Please send your child to school wearing their full school uniform, to include our school logo jumper or cardigan, and with a hair brush should they need to tidy their hair before their photo is to be taken. Your child's proof card will be sent home with the child when we receive them, hopefully by Friday 22nd November, if not before. For separated families, please email the office if you would like to receive a separate copy of your child's proof card to order online. Thank you.

Children in Need...

On **Friday 15th November**, High Ash will be joining in with BBC Children in Need where this year's focus is to Help us make life lighter for children. Right now Children in Need are only able to fund 1 in 8 organisations who ask them for help. Children across the UK are facing greater challenges than ever, with mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression rising, high levels of poverty leading to inequality and lack of opportunity. Many children are simply carrying a load that's too heavy to manage alone, so this year, Children in Need are asking you to help make life lighter for children.

For a small donation to Children in Need, which you can make on Parentpay, we are inviting all children to come to school in non-uniform, where we would like everyone to go spotty!

Y3-4 Parent Focus Group meeting...

On **Thursday 14th November at 9.00-9.45am**, Miss Whitehead and I will be hosting a parent focus group for all Year 3 and 4 parents. The aim of this session is for school to find out what is working well and how we can work together to make things even better. If you would like to attend please click [here](#) to complete the Google form. We look forward to seeing you.

Anti-Bullying Week...

Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will take place from Monday 11th - Friday 15th November, with the theme: Choose Respect. We will be marking the importance of this week by supporting **Odd Socks Day on Tuesday 12th November**, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Christmas at Waddesdon Manor...

As a thank you to our children taking part in the Winter Light Display, 'Once Upon a Christmastime at Waddesdon Manor, they are offering each child a unique, single-use code to use on their website to obtain tickets. Please read the attached document with guidance on how to book and note the following:

- Your code gives you a free child grounds ticket, and half price grounds entry for 2 accompanying adults and 2 extra children (there are ticket options for both members and non-members).
- The code will not work when trying to book the house, as it is a grounds-only offer. However, if you would like to also book the house, you can add this, as well as shuttle bus tickets, afternoon teas, premium parking, and guide books to your booking.

Please only use the website below to book tickets. Codes will not work if you use any other link to book tickets: <https://tickets.waddesdon.org.uk/school>

If you are interested in booking, please email the office asking for your unique code per child. **Online bookings will go live next week, Thursday 31st October.** However, please note the office will be closed over the half term and will re-open when we return to school on Monday 4th November at 8am. Therefore, please do not expect a response to your email over the half term period.

Poppy Appeal...

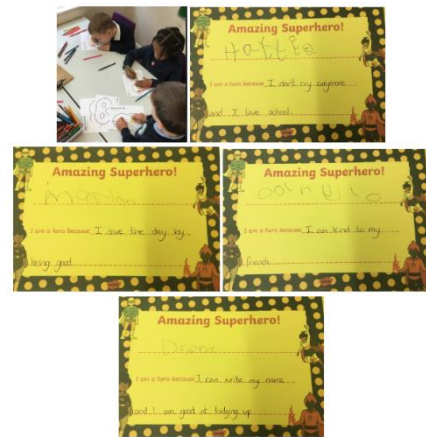
Merchandise will be on sale in the playground on **Friday 8th November at the HASA Treat Friday stall.**

Learning highlights this week....

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

Acorn (Foundation) -

We have reached our last week of term! It has gone so fast and the children have made a successful transition into Acorn class. This week, we reflected on how we are all superheroes because we have learned to work together and to follow the golden rules in our classroom. We know that all heroes sometimes make mistakes and that it is what we do when we make these mistakes that really matters. We show care and responsibility for our own choices and know that we can ask an adult for help when we need it. We awarded ourselves certificates for being heroes and practised writing our names with our improved letter formation and pencil grip skills. We also made ourselves hero masks and decorated them in our own chosen unique ways to represent how we are all special.



In Maths we have been learning more about comparing! We have learned about and applied the words 'more' and 'fewer' in lessons. We have played a game where we held up a number of fingers and compared how many we have held up with how many are on a hand displayed on the board and identified whether we had more or fewer fingers. We also had two colour monster teddies who each had an amount of objects we could compare and say which monster had more and which had fewer. We applied our subitising skills by looking and not counting when deciding which monster had more or fewer.

I am pleased to inform you that foundation children will now be joining our KS1 children in the weekly Star Assemblies on Friday afternoon's. This is invite only if your child has been nominated to receive a Star or Good Samaritan Award. Invites will be sent to you via ParentPay a week and a half in advance. **The first assembly they will be involved in will be Friday 8th November. Invites have already been sent.**

Due to it being half term next week, we have collected all library books and will choose new ones the first week back on Thursday 7th November. We encourage you to read exciting books at home with your children and perhaps even find an opportunity to take your child to a public library if you can. The Acorns team wishes you all a happy and restful half term and look forward to seeing you all afterwards!

Year One and Two-

Wow - we have had another jam-packed week in KS1! Year 1 have been impressing their teachers with their writing whilst Year 2 have been busy practising for their class assembly this week.

In English, we have had a non-fiction focus looking at the life of Queen Victoria. We have found out when she was married, what happened at the Great Exhibition and even learnt about her coronation. Year 1 have been busy using some new sentence openers - 'She' and 'The' whilst Year 2 have been mastering how to use expanded noun phrases.

In Maths, Year 1 have been exploring the world of number bonds and the different ways in which we can represent these - such as through a part-whole model or a bar model. The children particularly enjoyed our practical lesson where we wrote as many number bonds as we could identify all over the classroom tables! In Year 2, the children have been investigating fact families within 100 using different representations too.



In RE, we have been exploring what Christians believe God gave to people through creating the world and spreading love and kindness. The children discussed how we can ensure we look after everything God has given us.

Year Three and Four-

This week we have had the pleasure of creating gold or silver coins for the Waddesdon craft! We started out with some clay to shape into coins and then placed different designs on them. Once dry we painted them with either gold or silver metallic paint.



In History, it was Innovate week, we created our tombs for our Egyptian pharaohs and wrote paragraphs explaining the success of our pharaoh and the contents of their tomb.

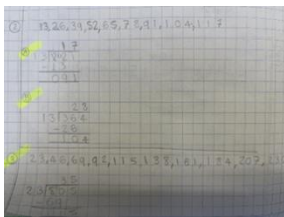
During maths we have been learning about addition and subtraction and using the most efficient method to do so. We have also been using different checking strategies to make sure our answers to different calculations are correct.



Year Five and Six-

This week, Year 5/6 have been completing their innovate pieces. In science lessons, we have been applying our learning about separating materials to create an informative set of instructions. We started the week with a game to refresh our memory of the star words and then made our predictions once we saw the gooey mixture. We then began the process of separating the materials using a variety of tools such as sieves, filter paper and even a microwave!

We then combined our scientific knowledge with the work we have been completing in English about instruction writing to create the final piece. We have used organisational devices such as: headings and subheadings, bullet points for key ideas and correctly punctuated lists, all whilst maintaining an informal tone.



This week in Maths, Year 6 have been looking at division. We first explored short division and using factors to help us divide before we tackled long division. We worked on ensuring our presentation was correct as this can impact the accuracy of our answers.

In Art this week, we have created futuristic drawings onto our printed backgrounds. The children used a range of techniques and materials to create their pictures, in the style of 'Astronaut Moonwalk' by Teis Albers.



Secondary School preferences...

The deadline for secondary school applications is **midnight on 31 October**.
buckinghamshire.gov.uk/contactadmissions

Callum Anderson visit...

Last Friday afternoon we welcomed Callum into our school - he started off meeting Key Stage 2 in the hall where he talked about his background. He also told us all what an MP does. Then 9 of our Year 5 and 6 children asked him questions which ranged from why he became an MP, about what Labour were doing about the environment, what Labour's success in the next 100 days would look like and how he himself 'let his light shine'. He then went on a tour around the whole school meeting all the children and he finished his hour talking with the Chair of Governors, Mrs Northen and myself about the challenges our school faces. He was interested to hear our views on the curriculum review and to hear about the struggles with the almost non-existent SEN funding. Callum went on to reassure us that he is there for us all to contact should we need to.





Attendance...

93% which is down from last week (94%). I really want to keep attendance above 96%. From **after half term we will be starting to issue fixed penalty notices for holiday absences.**

Reflections this week....

This week we talked to the children about how to keep themselves safe. The assembly gave children:

- An understanding of different forms of abuse, including bullying,
- An ability to recognise the signs of harm or abuse,
- Knowledge of how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse,
- An awareness of how to get help and sources of help, including Childline.

Through our curriculum, including assemblies like those this 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.

Traffic Issues...

We've received a number of complaints from our neighbours recently about parents/carers turning round in their drive. It is common courtesy not to park in front of someone's drive, or reverse into their private property to turn the car round. I'm sure we would all feel annoyed if this happened to any of us at home, so please be respectful of our neighbours. We've also had reports of parents turning round in the school entrance causing a danger when many parents and children are walking to and from school. Please do not use the school entrance as a turning point or park on the corner of the drive - there is poor visibility, it is likely to cause congestion and it presents a major risk to pedestrians. Thank you.

Halloween a GBCC...

The Cricket Club are holding a family Halloween Party on Friday 1st November. Please see flyer attached for full information.

Have a great half term.

Kate Goodger

Mrs Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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