



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter
Friday 8th November 2024
'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We have had a lovely week this week. The children have settled back into school quickly after half term and are enjoying their new topics. I was very impressed with Year 1 children who already have learnt the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees and they were able to recall so much from their topic in Foundation which is the foundation for the Key Stage 1 topic.

Starting School or Moving up to Junior School in September 2025

Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 will be starting school in September 2025.

Children attending an infant school and born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 will be moving up to junior school in September 2025.

The portal is open from 5 November 2024 until 15 January 2025.

Parents can apply here: [Submit your application | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

More information can be here: [Apply for a primary school place | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

The Guide for Parents is here: [Guide to starting school or moving up to junior school | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Racism and discrimination at High Ash...

I am saddened to have to write this, yet we are finding that there are increasingly more incidents when children are using racial slurs to other children. Whether or not this is due to children having more access to material that they wouldn't have seen before social media I do not know, yet they know terms like the 'n' word but do not really understand what that means. I recognise that there are many forms of discrimination and it is sad that some people want to hurt the feelings of others in this way. I recognise that children are learning to navigate the world, try out words and phrases that they hear and that children will make mistakes, however, it is all of our jobs to correct these and educate our children. This can be achieved if we (parents and school) work together. We have made changes to our PSHE curriculum to include more planned specific lessons to racial discrimination and we also put in additional sessions if an incident has occurred. Our children are very good in lessons at explaining what discrimination is and that it is unpleasant and damaging to the person or people that the comments have been directed towards, sadly this doesn't seem to stop them. As Headteacher, I want every child and family to feel that they belong and are a valued member of our school community whatever their ethnic, racial, gender or religious beliefs are. Please do support us with this.

Anti-Bullying Week, Monday 11th November...

Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will take place from **Monday 11th - Friday 15th November**, with the theme: Choose Respect. We will be linking this to discrimination and racism as above. 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.

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 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 - POSTPONED...

On Thursday 14th November I was planning to hold a Year 3-4 parent focus group meeting with Miss Whitehead and myself, however, only 4 parents have signed up. Therefore, we have decided that we will postpone it and if Year 3 and 4 parents would like to reschedule a meeting, please do get in touch and we will put it on again. It could be that I have chosen a bad time of year for you all or that you are all happy with how things are going. Please do let me know either way by emailing the office!

Y6 Football match report from Friday 25th October...

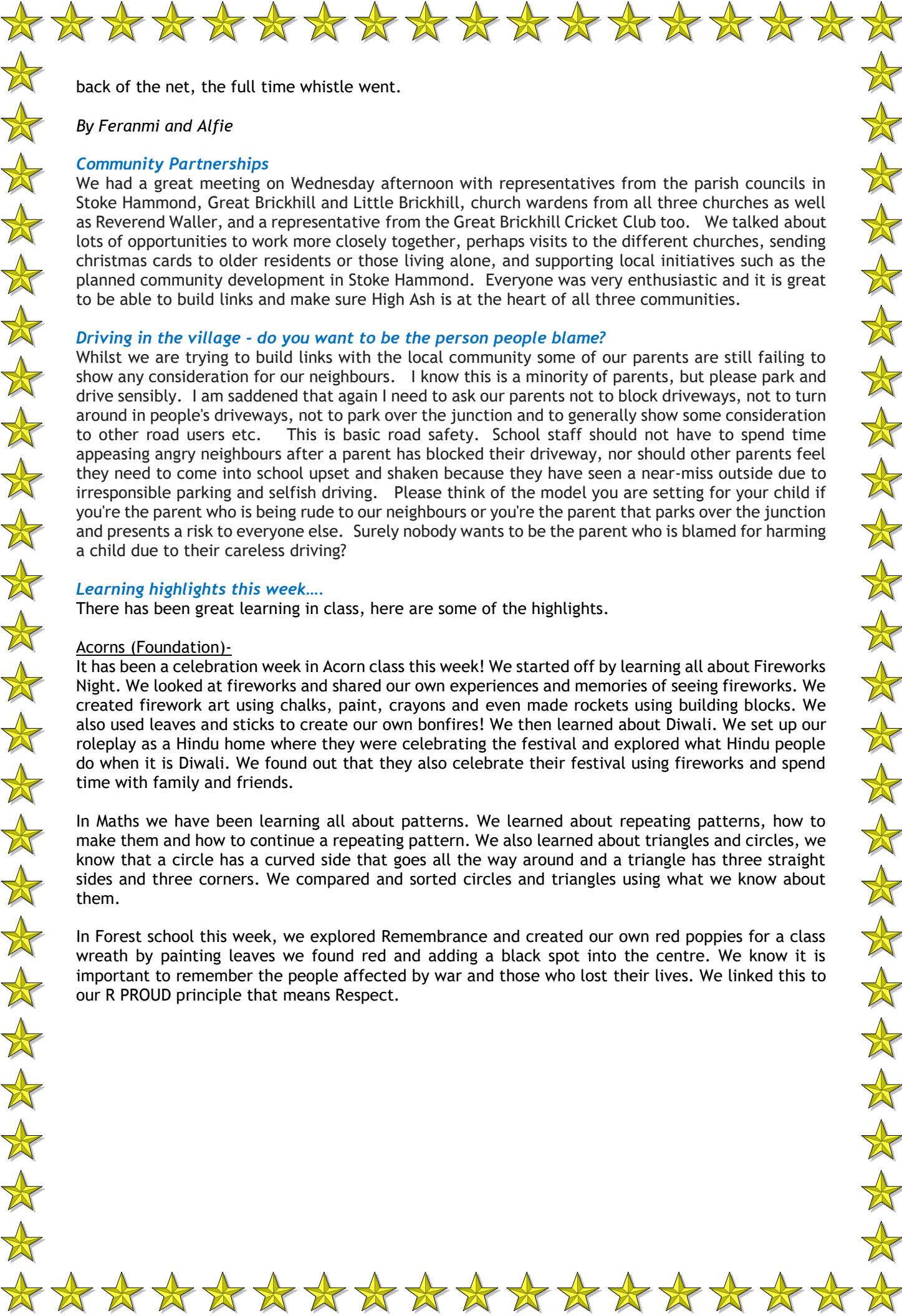
The game was High Ash vs Newton Longville. We started to practice before the game. When the game began, Newton Longville scored in the first minute making the 1-0 to Newton Longville. After the last break in play, Feranmi came on, and Alfie had a shot at goal, but the goalkeeper saved it, then he kicked it out to High Ash box.

At that moment, High Ash dropped back and we managed to block the two shots from Newton Longville. After that, Max, our goalkeeper kicked it out and High Ash had the last attack before the half time whistle went.

Mr Simmonds, our coach, called us in for a team talk to tell us what we needed to improve on and what players are playing. He also praised us on how well we recovered from the first goal. He also said we needed to work as a team more so that we could have more opportunities to score goals. We went back on to the pitch to start the second half.

After that, Newton Longville started the second half of the match. Keeping possession, they worked together and had a shot on goal which Max saved, leading to the first corner of the game. We miscommunicated and the ball went to the keeper. He kicked it out to one of their players and one of the High Ash players made a bad tackle leading to a free kick that was a goal. The score line was then 2-0 Newton Longville. We tried to dribble to the Newton Longville box but got tackled. Newton Longville went to attack and scored from that attack making it 3-0 Newton Longville. We pressed once more and had a shot at goal but they both failed to reach the





back of the net, the full time whistle went.

By Feranmi and Alfie

Community Partnerships

We had a great meeting on Wednesday afternoon with representatives from the parish councils in Stoke Hammond, Great Brickhill and Little Brickhill, church wardens from all three churches as well as Reverend Waller, and a representative from the Great Brickhill Cricket Club too. We talked about lots of opportunities to work more closely together, perhaps visits to the different churches, sending christmas cards to older residents or those living alone, and supporting local initiatives such as the planned community development in Stoke Hammond. Everyone was very enthusiastic and it is great to be able to build links and make sure High Ash is at the heart of all three communities.

Driving in the village - do you want to be the person people blame?

Whilst we are trying to build links with the local community some of our parents are still failing to show any consideration for our neighbours. I know this is a minority of parents, but please park and drive sensibly. I am saddened that again I need to ask our parents not to block driveways, not to turn around in people's driveways, not to park over the junction and to generally show some consideration to other road users etc. This is basic road safety. School staff should not have to spend time appeasing angry neighbours after a parent has blocked their driveway, nor should other parents feel they need to come into school upset and shaken because they have seen a near-miss outside due to irresponsible parking and selfish driving. Please think of the model you are setting for your child if you're the parent who is being rude to our neighbours or you're the parent that parks over the junction and presents a risk to everyone else. Surely nobody wants to be the parent who is blamed for harming a child due to their careless driving?

Learning highlights this week...

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

Acorns (Foundation)-

It has been a celebration week in Acorn class this week! We started off by learning all about Fireworks Night. We looked at fireworks and shared our own experiences and memories of seeing fireworks. We created firework art using chalks, paint, crayons and even made rockets using building blocks. We also used leaves and sticks to create our own bonfires! We then learned about Diwali. We set up our roleplay as a Hindu home where they were celebrating the festival and explored what Hindu people do when it is Diwali. We found out that they also celebrate their festival using fireworks and spend time with family and friends.

In Maths we have been learning all about patterns. We learned about repeating patterns, how to make them and how to continue a repeating pattern. We also learned about triangles and circles, we know that a circle has a curved side that goes all the way around and a triangle has three straight sides and three corners. We compared and sorted circles and triangles using what we know about them.

In Forest school this week, we explored Remembrance and created our own red poppies for a class wreath by painting leaves we found red and adding a black spot into the centre. We know it is important to remember the people affected by war and those who lost their lives. We linked this to our R PROUD principle that means Respect.



Year One and Two-

KS1 have thoroughly enjoyed becoming scientists to explore our new topic of 'Enchanted Woodland'. We have started the topic through becoming tree detectives and learning the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees. We learnt how to decipher which leaf belongs to which tree through its properties; deciduous trees have flat, wide leaves whilst evergreen trees have pointy, narrow leaves.



In Maths, Year 1 have started to explore subtraction where we have had to identify a missing part in a part whole model! We've had to use our special skills of number bonds to help us. We've had lots of chances to work practically on this during the week. In Year 2, the children have been exploring number bonds to 100!



In English, we have been writing retells of the story of 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett. In Year 1, we explored the sentence openers of **He** and **It** whilst Year 2 have been exploring the conjunction **because**.

In Computing, the children have been continuing their work, using the Paintzapp to create images and to write text.



Year Three and Four-

This week we had our Hook Day! We created the digestive system using tights as intestines and looked at the process of food being digested through the organs and how it came out the other end. We also used plaque disclosing tablets to see how clean our teeth were - lots of us ended up with very purple tongues!



We looked at some of the fantastic work that had been taking place at home last half term - from pyramid lego masterpieces to fact full posters!



In D&T we have been starting to learn the technique of cross stitch and running stitch in preparation to make a mini cushion. This week we have practiced our cross stitch technique and learnt about applique to create patterns.



In Computing, we created flip books animations by changing the picture slightly on each new page to make it look like it was moving. We had a lot of fun with our different ideas and showing each other our flip books!



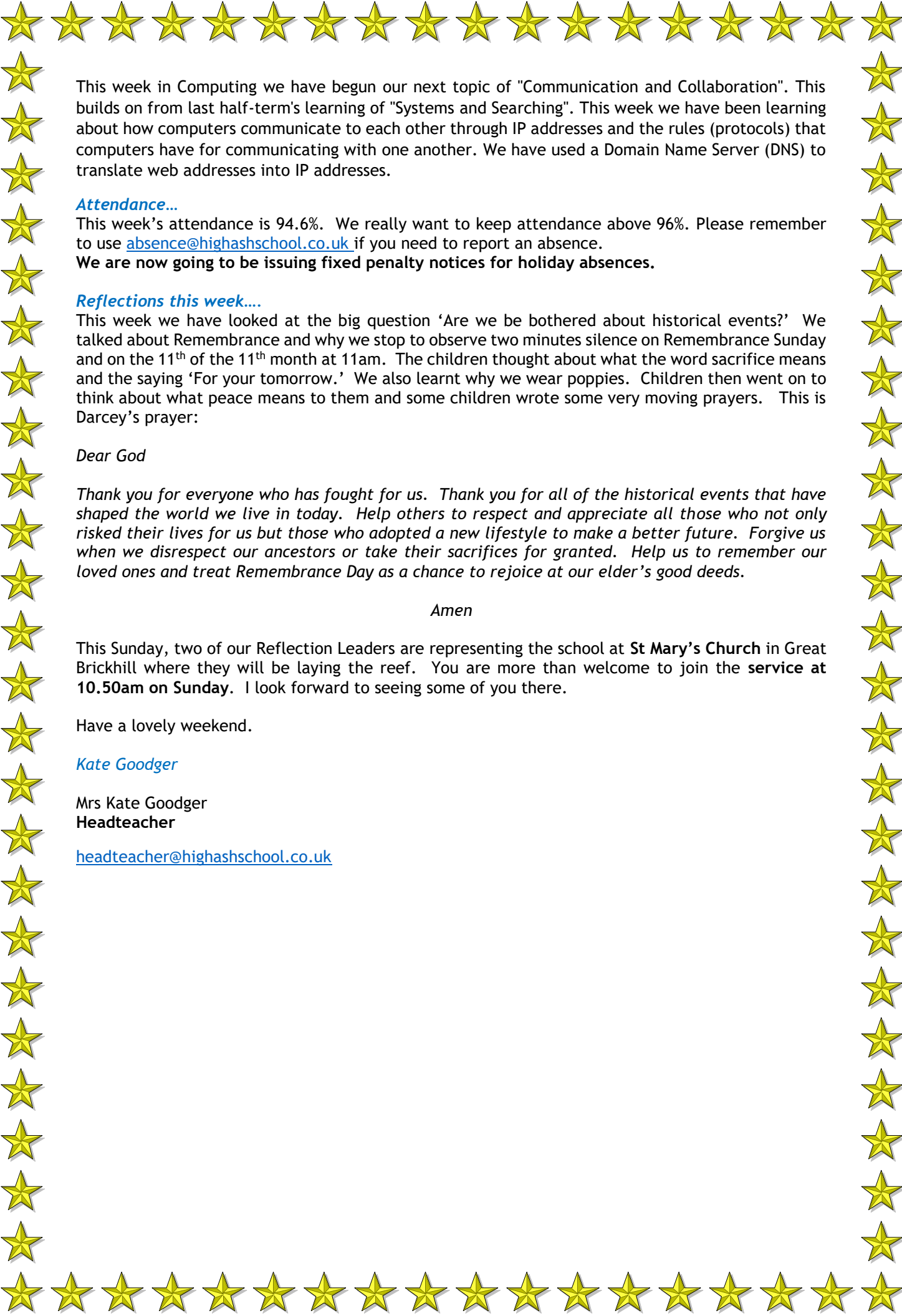
Year Five and Six-

This week, Year 5/6 began their new topic: Rebels and Royals. On our hook day, we researched knights and their roles within society. We learnt that knights would carry a spear and shield with them, which would be decorated with their coat of arms. We designed our own coat of arms that symbolised us, after looking at the royal coat of arms and the symbols within it. Afterwards, we enjoyed a feast of medieval delicacies including cheese, bread, meats and 'wine'! During the feast, we were all given different roles from the baker to the chaplain, the commander to the maid. We considered where these would fit in the hierarchical system of the middle ages.



We started our new PE topics, dance and hockey. In hockey, we practiced the skills of dribbling and push passing, by writing our names with the ball and then playing a small game of 'piggy-in-the-middle'.





This week in Computing we have begun our next topic of "Communication and Collaboration". This builds on from last half-term's learning of "Systems and Searching". This week we have been learning about how computers communicate to each other through IP addresses and the rules (protocols) that computers have for communicating with one another. We have used a Domain Name Server (DNS) to translate web addresses into IP addresses.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94.6%. We really want to keep attendance above 96%. Please remember to use absence@highashschool.co.uk if you need to report an absence. **We are now going to be issuing fixed penalty notices for holiday absences.**

Reflections this week...

This week we have looked at the big question 'Are we be bothered about historical events?' We talked about Remembrance and why we stop to observe two minutes silence on Remembrance Sunday and on the 11th of the 11th month at 11am. The children thought about what the word sacrifice means and the saying 'For your tomorrow.' We also learnt why we wear poppies. Children then went on to think about what peace means to them and some children wrote some very moving prayers. This is Darcey's prayer:

Dear God

Thank you for everyone who has fought for us. Thank you for all of the historical events that have shaped the world we live in today. Help others to respect and appreciate all those who not only risked their lives for us but those who adopted a new lifestyle to make a better future. Forgive us when we disrespect our ancestors or take their sacrifices for granted. Help us to remember our loved ones and treat Remembrance Day as a chance to rejoice at our elder's good deeds.

Amen

This Sunday, two of our Reflection Leaders are representing the school at **St Mary's Church** in Great Brickhill where they will be laying the reef. You are more than welcome to join the **service at 10.50am on Sunday**. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs Kate Goodger
Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk