



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

*'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16*



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

#### **Challenge Partners Review...**

We enjoyed having our Challenge Partners Review this week. It went really well and I look forward to sharing the report when it is published in the next few weeks.

#### **Reminder - Year 5/6 Faith Tour...**

As part of our RE curriculum, we have organised a visit to take part on a faith tour on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024** in order to enhance our understanding of different faiths. This visit will include a tour of three different places of worship and interactive question and answer sessions. We do require a **voluntary contribution of £11.00 per child to pay via your Parentpay** account to help cover the cost of transportation. For full information, please refer to the letter sent to all Y5/6 parents last week via ParentPay.

#### **Reminder - Christmas Tree Walk...**

Once again the whole school will be walking to **Alders Farm Fisheries on Friday 6th December** for our Annual Christmas Tree walk. We aim to leave school at 9am and should be back in school by 11am (ish!). We do require parent volunteers to help walk the children to and from the Fisheries. If you can spare some time to join us at this festive event, please click on the link below to submit a google form by Tuesday 3rd December. Thank you for your anticipated support.

<https://forms.gle/7KiN7tkM8tJX68ne7>

#### **Christmas Craft Fair...**

We are really looking forward to our **Christmas Fair on Friday 6th December** which we are running alongside HASA. The children are busy making lots of Christmas decorations to sell on the stalls and HASA will be providing festive refreshments for **parents/carers**. All are welcome and we hope it will be a fun-filled afternoon following the Christmas Tree walk in the morning.

If you wish to attend, please indicate this by completing the same google form above. This will give us an idea of numbers for refreshments etc.

The children will be making and selling decorations and treats the children have all made themselves. They are all priced at £1 and there will be the maximum purchase of 2 items. The children may bring in **£2 in cash** to purchase their gifts. We are delighted HASA are supporting this event and offering refreshments for parents and carers. HASA can accept both cash and card when buying refreshments and raffle tickets. The refreshments in the afternoon are just for the adults and the children can enjoy the refreshments and donuts after school as HASA will be selling them as their Treat Fridays. The times the classes will be coming down to the hall are as follows:

- 2.00pm - Year 5/6 parents
- 2.20pm - Year 3/4 parents
- 2.40pm - Year 1/2 parents
- 3.00pm - Year R Acorn Parents

The Christmas Tree walk and now the Christmas Fayre is always special - a great High Ash tradition and a start to our Christmas celebrations. We look forward to seeing you all!

***HASA Krispy Kreme doughnut box fundraiser...***

Show your support for High Ash school with original glazed Krispy Kreme doughnuts on **Friday December 6th**.

**Pre-order 6 original glazed doughnuts for £7 or 12 for £13 via your ParentPay account by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.**

Single doughnuts available on the day at £1.50 each whilst stocks last

**Collection Friday 6th December**

Please collect either from HASA stall at High Ash Craft Fair from 2.00-4pm or Great Brickhill Cricket Club on Rotten Row from 4pm onwards.

Orders can be made via ParentPay or the HASA store:

[www.highash.sumupstore.com/product/krispy-kreme-doughnut-box](http://www.highash.sumupstore.com/product/krispy-kreme-doughnut-box)

**Thank you for your support!**

***Learning highlights this week...***

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

**Acorns -**

We had the unexpected excitement of exploring the snow and we received a letter from the Gruffalo in Acorn Class this week! He has challenged us to find out about the other woodland animals that live in his habitat. We started by learning about badgers. Did you know that badgers live in a main sett? We also found out that badgers have lots of smaller setts and that they also have a territory. They mark their territory out by using their toilets which we learned are called latrines and that they do not welcome visits from other badgers who are not in their family. We then moved on to learn about foxes. We used the books in the reading corner with help from Miss Stewart to find out lots of facts about foxes and recalled the ones that we found the most interesting.

Acorns started to use their challenge cards this week, they now have two daily challenges which they must complete. This was an exciting new change and made us feel more grown up. We get a house point for each challenge we complete. The aim is for everyone to complete all ten using independence and without being prompted by an adult.

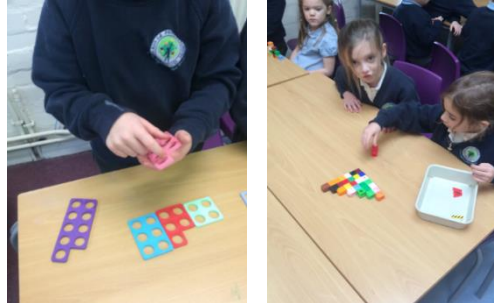
In Maths, we have been learning all about the number five. We looked at a hand and counted out five objects, as we know that we have five fingers on our hand. We also used a die frame to count out five counters and used our counting steps to ensure that we had counted in order and could say how many there were altogether. We then used two die frames to explore how five and five makes ten!

**On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, Acorn class will be going on a woodland walk as part of our topic. We will be walking down to Little Ashes Forest School at 1.00pm and returning at 3.00pm. There, we will explore the woodland and use what we have learned about woodland animals to create shelters in their habitat that would suit them. Please ensure your child is dressed as if they are going to Forest school on Thursday and ensure they wrap up warm!**



Year One and Two-

We've had another jam-packed week in KS1! In maths, Year 1 have finished their addition and subtraction within 10 unit, applying their skills to add and subtract one or two from any number. The children have also learnt how to use a number line for subtraction. In Year 2, the children have been learning to add to the next 10 and across 10. In mastering number, the Year 1 children have been exploring increasing and decreasing by one. The children created a set of steps with multilink and Numicon to deepen their understanding.



In English, the children have been writing character descriptions of the Gruffalo. Year 1 have been learning how to use adjectives and the conjunction 'and' to join two ideas. Whilst Year 2 have been learning how to use the conjunction 'that' to extend their ideas.

In Science, we have continued our learning by looking at living and non-living things. The children used checklists to help them classify different objects in a woods.



**Homework**

We were blown away by the effort and quality of the children's homework last half term! Thank you for supporting your children with this. The children's new homework menu will come home this **Friday 22nd November 2024**. The homework will be due in on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

**Nativity**

This year, Year 1 and 2 children will be rehearsing and performing in 'Twinkly Nativity'. The children will receive their costume lists by the end of next week. The Year 2 children will also receive their individual speaking lines by the end of next week too.

Year Three and Four-

In Computing, we continued our work on our stop frame animations, this time we introduced a background and some characters. We moved the characters slowly in each frame to create the effect of them being real.



During our science lessons we have been looking at sugar in food and how this can affect our teeth and bodies. To start, we ordered some different foods to show how much sugar we thought they had in them...some of the results were definitely more than we expected. We also started an experiment to show how different liquids could affect our teeth. To do this we filled 4 cups with water, vinegar, orange juice and coke and placed an egg in (to act as the teeth).



In RE we are looking at the Christmas story. We arranged the pictures into chronological order. This is going to help us in our future lessons leading up to Christmas.



In our D&T lessons we have been creating our first designs for a felt cushion. Over the last 2 weeks, we have been practising cross stitch and applique techniques to use on our cushions to create designs and patterns. We have some very talented sewers on our hands!



#### Year Five and Six-

We have been hands-on scientists this week! We have learned key vocabulary such as microbes, microorganisms and pathogens. We found out fascinating facts such as that bacteria can catch viruses. As it is not possible to see microbes, nor is there an electron microscope handy lying around in the science cupboard, we have collected samples from around the Year 5/6 area with swabs, then applied the swabs to agar jelly in Petri dishes in order to try to grow microorganisms. This was great fun as the children were quite creative about where they might find samples: their breath, the on/off buttons on the screen, their bare feet...

As there has been ill health in school this week, the Petri dishes have been securely sealed and stored well away from the children. Will anything interesting grow? We'll check on them daily and let you know in a forthcoming newsletter.

Here are some pictures of the lesson in Oak Class:



This week in Computing we have explored how people can work together when they are not in the same location. We discussed ways of working before completing a collaborative task where the children didn't know who was in their group until they began collaborating on the same document, creating a fact file about a given country. Children had to use the features on Google Slides to communicate to each other throughout this task.

#### **Attendance...**

We still have the nasty bugs circulating the school - it has now travelled up to Key stage 2! Let's hope next week is better. This week's attendance is 86.6%. Please remember to always email [Absence@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:Absence@highashschool.co.uk) when reporting children's absences.

#### **Reflections this week...**

We have been looking at what motivation is, thinking about how we keep motivated and how this impacts our attitude to being bothered. We also looked at the bible reading from Psalm 31:24: Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!

Please see below some photos of the children having fun in the snow today at break time.



Please see attached our Countdown to Christmas diary dates.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Kate Goodger*

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Headteacher

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