



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter
Thursday 28th November 2024
'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Staffing update...

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Wood, she has decided to step away from teaching and retrain. We wish her all the luck with her new adventure and we will miss her. We are delighted to tell you that Mrs Underwood is returning from her maternity leave after Christmas and she will teach Holly class on a Thursday and Friday. Also at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Miss Brice, who has secured a job at Milton Keynes College where she can combine her LSA skills with her hairdressing skills. We wish her success with her new venture.

Commando Joe...

We have been working with Commando Joe's for a number of years now and we believe the programme has been a huge benefit to our pupils. Much of that success has been due to the quality of the instructor. Commando Pete has worked with High Ash since 2021 and was well respected by the children.

It's been great to see Pete back in school over the past few weeks, after leaving Commando Joes briefly, but Pete re-joined the organisation in a new role and is not able to commit to being at High Ash every week. Sadly, they have not been able to recruit a replacement that meets the standards which they or we expect. We have decided to pause the Commando Joe programme when our contract comes to an end in December while they recruit a new instructor.

We hope the programme will restart eventually, but I wanted to make sure parents were aware of the situation as I know much the children enjoy and talk about the Commando Joe sessions on a Wednesday. The last Commando Joe session will be Wednesday 4th December.

I know the children will be disappointed, so am I, but hopefully Commando Joes will soon appoint new instructors and the programme can start again.

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 a £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!

Learning highlights this week...

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

Acorns -

Acorns have continued their work on the Gruffalo and were excited to learn more about woodland animals this week. We found out about squirrels, we found out that there are two types of squirrels, red and grey. We found out that we have more grey squirrels than red squirrels. We created woodland homes for squirrels in our construction area this week. The children learned how to create a simple plan and design before they build using both the small and then large construction this week.

In phonics, we have been reviewing our set one sounds and making sure we are really secure on how to say and read the sounds. We have also begun to use our 'Fred Talk' to pinch the sounds in CVC words and write them. It has been wonderful to see the children using their phonics knowledge in provision and beginning to write more independently.

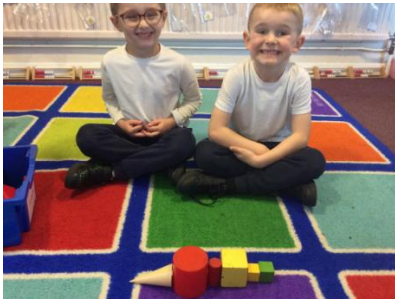
Acorn children have really enjoyed using our knowledge of shape to create our printed picture in the maths area. We used triangles, circles, squares and rectangles to print with in paint and used what we had learned about the features of the shapes to explain which shape was which and how we knew. We looked in detail at the number three this week, making sure that we counted how many there were using our steps to count, and we learned that it doesn't matter if our objects are different sizes, we can still count them and find how many there are altogether.



Year One and Two-

This week in KS1, we have been exploring the story 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell in our writing. In Year 1, we have learnt another sentence opener - they - which we have been applying to our work, as well as using all the other skills we have learnt to be a clever writer this half term. In Year 2, the children have been focused on using conjunctions to add additional detail within their retells of the story.

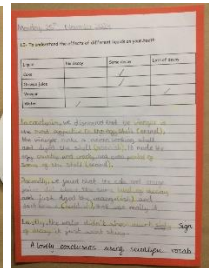
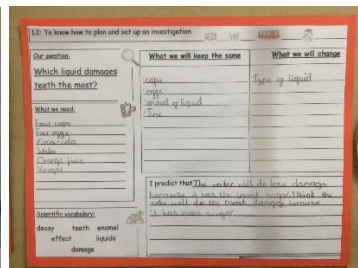
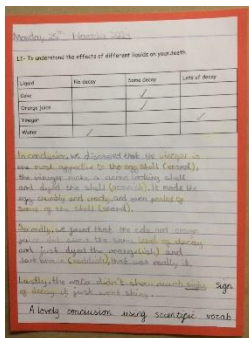
In Year 1, the children have started a new maths unit looking at shape. We have started by exploring a variety of 3D shapes and sorting them based on their properties. We have particularly enjoyed exploring the 3D shapes during provision time. In Year 2, the children have continued with their addition and subtraction unit where they have been adding over a 10.



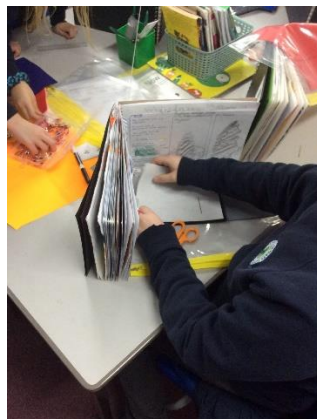
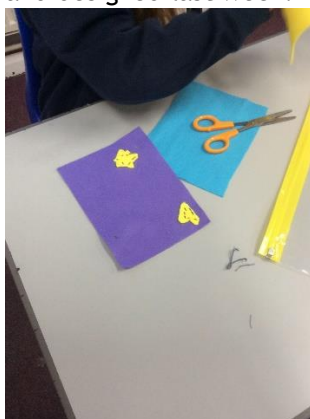
We have also started our Nativity rehearsals this week and the children have impressed us with their performance skills! Year 1 children now know their characters and we will send home costume lists at the start of next week.

Year Three and Four-

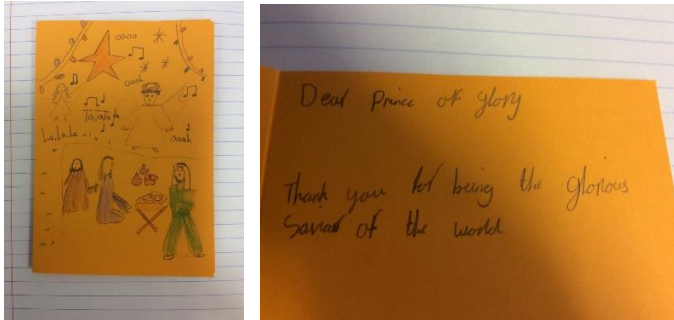
This week in Science we have been looking at the results of our investigation. We were investigating which type of liquid would be the best and the worst for your teeth. In place of teeth we used eggs to mimic the enamel on your teeth. We found that the vinegar was the worst for your teeth, leaving the egg shell soft and crumbly and the water was the best for your teeth, leaving the egg shell intact.



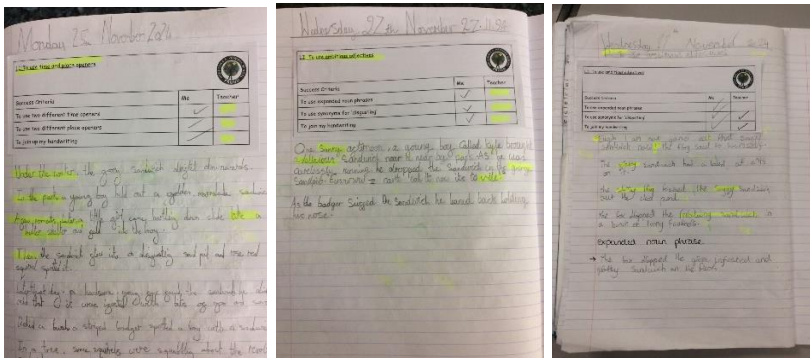
In D&T this week we have been starting to assemble our cushions! Using our prior knowledge of applique and cross stitch we have begun decorating the front, following the designs we had drawn and designed last week.



In RE we created birthday cards for Jesus, we included symbols connected to the Christmas story and used some of the names Jesus is given in famous carols.

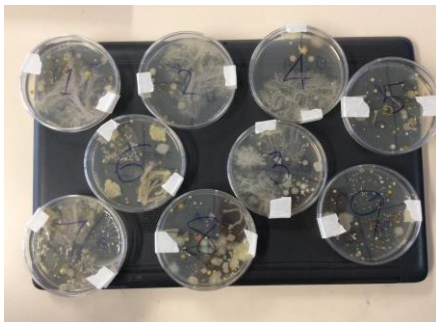


The book we are focussing on this week in English is 'The Disgusting Sandwich'. We are focussing on retelling this story using ambitious adjectives, speech and embedding our knowledge of time and place openers. These sandwiches are turning out to be truly revolting and some brilliant writing has been taking place across 3/4.

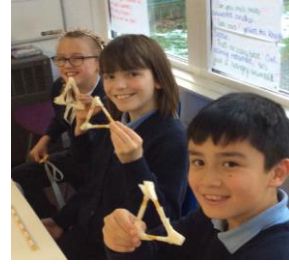


Year Five and Six-

As promised last week, here are the results of growing microbes on Petri dishes from last week. We're really delighted with how well this investigation worked out - and slightly disgusted too!



In D&T, we have been looking at the different structures of bridges, including beam, arch and truss bridges. To investigate the structure of a truss bridge, we created models using spaghetti. This was quite tricky and fiddly but once constructed, we were able to measure the strength and stability of the bridges. We recognised that by using triangles, the weight would be evenly distributed which meant the structure would be strong, especially in comparison to a beam bridge.



This week in Computing the children were introduced to another approach to online working: reusing and modifying work done by someone else. The children reused a scratch file, edited it to make it their own. The class then discussed where or when it is ok to reuse someone's work. The children recognised that it is not always OK to use someone else's work. Using someone else's work needs to be within the bounds of copyright and with the relevant permissions.

This half-term, our book in Guided Reading has been *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* written by Michael Morpurgo. We have explored the emotions Sir Gawain has gone through in the first part of the book, from accepting the Green Knight's challenge to travelling to the Green Chapel and meeting a Lord. This week we have created our own inferential questions before making predictions about what will happen to Sir Gawain when he gets to the Green Chapel.



Reminder - Y5/6 Faith Tour...

As you know, for our RE curriculum, we are taking part in a faith tour on Wednesday 11th December in order to enhance our understanding of different faiths. The visit will include a tour of three different places of worship and interactive question and answer sessions. This is a great opportunity to support our children's understanding of different faiths and to experience entering a Gurdwara, Mosque and a church. We have asked for a voluntary contribution of £11.00 per child to help cover the costs. **It would be appreciated if you could please login to your ParentPay account to pay by Monday 2nd December. If you are unable to contribute, please still login to your account, select the payment item and tick the consent box.** Thank you.

Attendance...

This week's attendance has really improved, hopefully we have all had the bug and can now enjoy a period of good health - fingers crossed! The attendance this week is 93.8%.

Reflections this week...

This week we have started Advent. We are using the Archbishops *Follow the Star: Calm and Bright* drawing on the world-famous carol, Silent Night: "Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright..."

Over the 4 weeks we'll hear from 4 main characters in Luke's account of the Christmas story, Angel Gabriel, Joseph, a shepherd and Mary. As we listen to their stories, we'll think about how they experienced 'All is calm, all is bright', the message their story brings of Jesus' birth and what those messages might mean for us today. What actions could we take to bring calmness and brightness to our world?

St, Luke's Church Christmas Fayre...

This is to be held at Stoke Hammond Community Centre on Saturday 30th November between 1-4pm. Please see attached flyer.

Have a lovely long weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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