



High Ash CE School  
Weekly Newsletter  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024



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

## Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

### **Christmas Tree Walk...**

We had a lovely yet muddy walk this morning to get our Christmas Tree. The children sang brilliantly around the tree and we need to say a huge thank you to Alders Farm Fishery for allowing us to come to the Farm and providing us with the tree. It was lovely to see this event well supported by so many of our families.



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

The children have been busy this week - creating some great products to sell at our Christmas Fair this afternoon. They have been looking forward to going shopping! Thank you to HASA for providing refreshments and the classes for providing the entertainment.



### ***Community Concert...***

On Wednesday, the children entertained the community with some superb singing. Every child got up onto the stage and created some festive cheer - it was a lovely concert. Thanks to Mrs Gray and to all the teachers who put the concert together.

### ***Y5/6 Football League Game...***

The game started with an early goal from Newton Longville but High Ash quickly bounced back with great attacking play from Callum and Leo led to a great goal scored by Owen. Unfortunately, Newton Longville got a huge chance from a throw in and a great save from Max kept the scores level. After that, a great tackle from Henry in the defence gave us a counter attack, but a great challenge put an end to an opportunity to take the lead. A great piece of football between Miles and Emma gave us another opportunity to take the lead.

The starting whistle blew for the second half with High Ash on the front foot, brilliant defending from Darcey and Henry to get the ball to Senara and just wide of the far post. Out for a goal kick, a nice pass from a goal kick from Max to Leo which starts a counter attack which is put just wide. Later on in the second half we are 3-1 down but a pass from max to Leo led to a counter which from the whole team was then slotted nicely into the bottom left from Leo. High Ash dominating led to a great football game from the team. In the dying moments of the game Leo runs to the byline and cuts back a nice ball for Owen to put away.

Thank you to all the parents that came to support us.

By Leo, Max and Henry

**Learning highlights this week...**

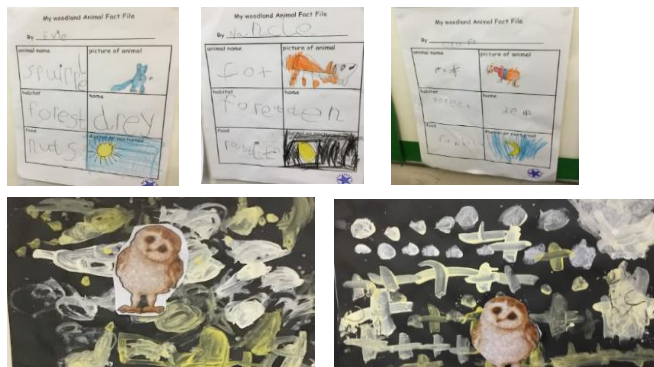
There has been great learning in class, here are some of the highlights.

**Acorns -**

We have been exploring nocturnal and diurnal animals in Acorn class this week. The children have reviewed our woodland animals and we've compared them to other animals and sorted them into groups of diurnal and nocturnal animals. We also explored the story 'The owl who was afraid of the dark' and talked about how the owl Plop changed his mind about how he felt about the dark when he spoke with different characters. We then set up a dark den in our classroom and sat in the dark and reflected on how it makes us feel. Inspired by the story, we created our own exciting night skies for Plop using our painting skills. We selected which paint brushes we would use for which parts of our art using what we have learned.

We have also been using what we have learned to write simple reports about the animals we now know about. We have included their name, habitat, home, what they eat and whether or not they are nocturnal or diurnal. It has been so impressive to see how the children are now forming their letters and how well they are writing their names on their work.

Acorn children have been working so hard on preparing their nativity and gave a sneak peek when they sang one of the songs during the community concert. They made us very proud! Thank you to those who are busy rehearsing at home. Please encourage your child to practise their lines with you, there is less than two weeks until showtime!



**Foundation Nativity - Tickets...**

Remember to reserve your seats via ParentPay by Wednesday 11th December. Maximum of 3 seats per family.

**Foundation costumes** - Please send your child to school with their costume by **Friday 6th December**. Costumes must be named and in a named bag please.

**Year One and Two-**

This week, KS1 have definitely started to get into the Christmas spirit! Our nativity rehearsals are in full flow and we have been busy creating Christmas crafts and baking for the Christmas Fayre this week. Cherry class thoroughly enjoyed creating melting snowmen biscuits, Apple have made chocolate reindeer, whilst Chestnut had fun making and decorating some Christmas shortbread. We have also been creating decorations for Stoke Hammond Parish Christmas tree.



In English, the children have been looking at the story called 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled' where the children have been using all of the skills from their 'I'm a Clever Writer checklist' to write fantastic retells of the story. In Year 1, we have been using the conjunction and to join two ideas whilst Year 2 have been using a variety of conjunctions to add additional details.

### KS1 Nativity - Tickets...

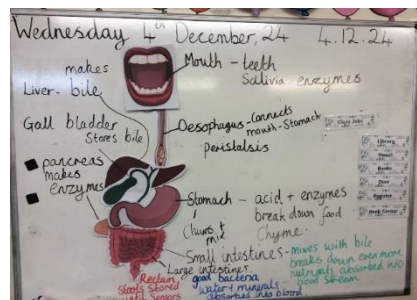
Remember to reserve your seats via ParentPay by Wednesday 11th December. Maximum of 3 seats per family overall.

**KS1 costumes** - Please send your child to school with their costume by **Wednesday 11th December**. Again, costumes must be named and in a named bag please.

**KS1 Nativity evening performances at 5.30pm, please return your child to school by 5pm** so they can go to their classroom and get changed prior to the performance starting. Parents that have booked seats for the performances, will be able to take their seats in the hall. **If you have not booked a seat for either of the evening performances, please drop off at 5pm and collect again from school at 6.15pm.** Thank you.

### Year Three and Four-

In Science we have been learning all about the order of the digestive system and what happens at each stage. Our first lesson was learning all about each organ and their functions. To do this we created huge mindmaps to place all of our previous knowledge and newly collected information from both fact sheets and chrome books! Our second and third lessons were all about the order of the digestive system and talking/writing about what happens at each stage! We have some fantastic scientists!

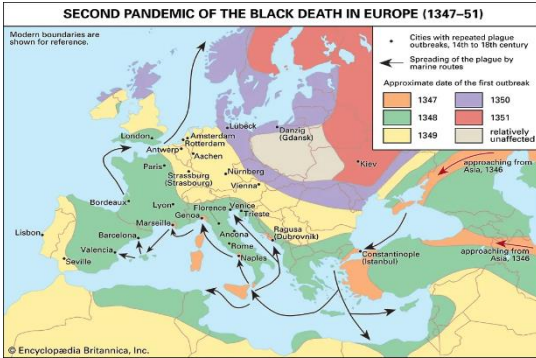


This week we have also made some very festive decorations for the Christmas Fayre! The children had a lot of fun and created some beautiful decorations. We are definitely getting into the Christmas spirit!



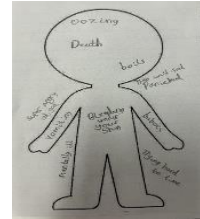
During our D&T lessons we have been working on our cushions by attaching the last of the applique patches to our bases. Our next step is to sew up the sides and leave a hole for the stuffing to go into! We have some brilliant sewers in Year 3/4 and we expect to see some of them on 'The Great British Sewing Bee' in a few years!

## Year Five and Six-

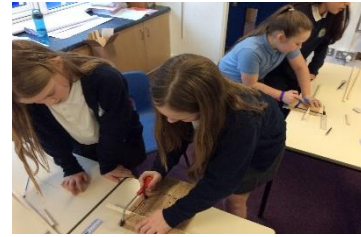


To further our understanding of life in Medieval England, we have been learning about the Bubonic Plague (also known as the Black Death). We found out that the second pandemic of the Black Death came from the East from Asia, probably following the Silk Road and reached Southern England in 1348. We discovered that rats get an unfair reputation in spreading the plague as it is actually a bacteria, *Yersinia pestis*, that live on fleas that irritate rats that cause the bubonic plague. Back in the Middle Ages, people believed a miasma,

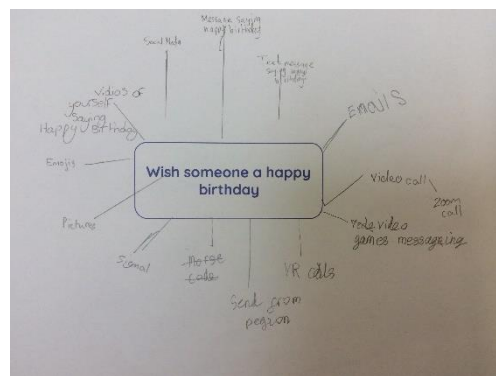
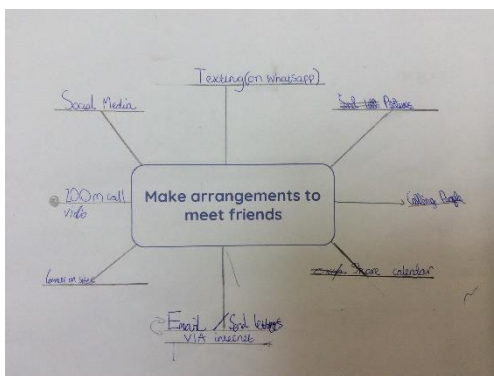
punishment from God or an unlucky conjunction of the planets were to blame. The 'cures' used back in the 14<sup>th</sup> century did not work and it is believed that up to 50 million people died of it across Europe including half of the population of England. Luckily, nowadays, a simple cause of antibiotics enable people to survive the plague.



In D&T, we have started construction of our wooden truss bridges. We discussed the properties of different materials, using our knowledge from previous years and vocabulary such as hard, soft, brittle, strong and weak. We recognised that most bridges are made from metal as it is strong and can withstand different weathers. We then considered different types of wood and the properties of hardwood and softwood. We recognised that we are using softwood to construct our bridges. We started construction with measuring and sawing out the pieces needed for our next lesson, which will be joining.



This week in Computing we have explored different methods of communication before considering internet-based communication. Finally, we evaluated which of these methods suit particular purposes, working in groups to come up with ideas.



## 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 94.1%.



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

This week we continue our Advent journey - *Follow the Star: Calm and Bright*. Our big question has been 'What message would you give to others about peace in our world?' We studied the bible reading from Luke 2: 1-7. The children thought about why they thought God chose for his son to be born in a stable and laid in a manger.

### **Autumn Term Clubs - Final sessions for this term...**

Mon - Street Jazz Dance with Eve - Last session 16th Dec  
Mon - Filmmaking Club - Last session 16th Dec  
Tue - M-Sports Club with Mr Neary - Last session 10th Dec  
Tue - Mad Science club - Last session 17th Dec  
Wed - Art Club - Last session 11th Dec  
Wed - Commando Joe - Last session was 4th Dec  
Thu - Choir club with Mrs Gray - Last session 12th Dec  
Thu - M-Sports club with Mr Neary - Last session 12th Dec  
Fri - Art Club - Last session 13th Dec

### **Spring Term 2025 Clubs...**

Please view full club information on our website by clicking [here](#).  
Online bookings will be live tonight from 7pm and will close on Friday 20th December.

### **Reminder - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 13th December...**

Please remember to book your child a Christmas lunch via ParentPay and send your child to school wearing a Christmas Jumper on this day.

### **KS2 Carol Service, Thursday 19th December...**

Please remember to click [here](#) to reserve seats at the church

### **F/KS1 Christingle Service, Friday 20th December...**

Please remember to click [here](#) to reserve your seats at the church.

### **Reminder - Year 6 Christmas Cracked...**

The children will be participating in fast-moving interactive presentation called 'Christmas Cracked' organised by the Bridgebuilder Trust. All the Year 6 children will be going and are being transported by coach funded by school. At the end of the presentation, the children are given a Mince Pie. For dietary reasons, please ensure you complete the google confirming if your child can have a mince pie or not by clicking [here](#). Thank you.

### **St, Luke's Church Christingle Service and Christmas Tree Festival...**

Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am-4.00pm and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 11.00-3.00pm. Come and look at the Christmas Trees. Free refreshments provided, donations appreciated. Christingle Service is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. Please see attached flyer.

### **Great Brickhill Advent Trail...**

Please see the attached trail for this year. Please enjoy the trail with your family and friends viewing all the wonderful Christmas displays outside the houses.

Have a super weekend.

*Kate Goodger*

Mrs Kate Goodger  
Headteacher

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