



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

I don't really know where this week has gone to. It is flying by and the younger children are all very busy practising their productions for next week.

I had the pleasure of accompanying the Year 5 and 6 children on the Queen's Park Faith Tour this week. It was absolutely fascinating to see how in one community - three different faiths live and work side by side in harmony. I learnt so much at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara and the Jamia Masjid Gulshane Baghdad Mosque and the children asked some brilliant insightful questions. It was also really good to visit All Saints Parish Church and compare it to St Marys in Great Brickhill. The three faiths in Queen's Park all share one golden rule 'Treat others as you would want to be treated.' The Year 5 and 6 children were super ambassadors for the school and I was very proud to be their Headteacher.

#### **Christmas Post Box...**

Our Christmas Post Box can be found in the school library from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December ready for the children to post their Christmas cards to friends in school. Please make sure you include the child's class on the envelope to ensure the card makes its way to the correct child. Unfortunately, due to GDPR we are unable to give you class pupil names, you will have to rely on your child knowing who they would like to write a card out for. Year 6 children will be responsible for sorting and distributing all cards received.

#### **Swimming lessons...**

Year 3 will start their swimming lessons after Christmas. The first lesson will be on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**. The children can come to school in their PE kit and bring their swimming kit with them. If any parents have not yet completed the consent form, please do so using the link below. **The form must be completed by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January** and children will not be able to swim if we do not have consent. <https://forms.gle/QsgPsdcdkdJY2RCw5>

Whilst we cannot charge for swimming lessons, as it is a core part of the national curriculum, we are asking parents for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of transport. The coach hire costs approximately £3.50 per child per lesson, which is actually more than the hire of the pool itself. We are offering all parents in Year 3 and 4 the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution via your ParentPay account. We have not set a specific value, we are grateful for any contribution, whatever you can afford.

#### **Move away to 'My Child at School' App...**

We will be changing the software we use to manage our pupil information when we return to school in January. This will not affect parents initially, but please be patient with the office staff if we take a little longer to respond to queries in the first couple of weeks back at school.

Later in January we hope to start rolling out a new app to parents called 'My Child at School'. This app will allow parents to manage their own information, book meals, book clubs as well as allowing

us to send communications to parents. This app will replace the systems we currently use and, we believe, will simplify things for parents as all the information is in one place. More information will follow in the New Year but we wanted to make parents aware of our plans well in advance.

***Reminder - KS2 Carol Service, Thursday 19th December...***

Please send your child to school with an orange to make their Christingles on Tuesday 17th December. Children to wear their school uniform please.

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

Please send your child to school with an orange to make their Christingles on Wednesday 18th December. Children to wear their school uniform please.

Both the above church events will take place at **St. Mary's Church, starting at 1.45pm, leaving school at 1.30pm.** Thank you to all the parents that have volunteered to help walk the children to and from the church for the above events and have booked their seats. **The online google form is now closed.**

All children are to wear their school uniform on this day. Thank you.

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

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

Acorns -

We have had a very festive week in Acorn class this week! We have been busy practicing our play ready for our performances to our audience next week. The children have worked so hard on it, remembering to say our lines loud and clear as well as singing our songs and doing all of our actions. We look forward to sharing it with you all next week!

We created our beautiful Christmas cards this week, we used our learning about shapes from this term to create triangle Christmas trees, decorated them with drawn on tinsel and pompoms and stuck them to our cards. The children then wrote out their card inserts and stuck them into their cards. They then stuck in their inserts and learned how to put them in an envelope ready to give to family at home. We also talked about sending our Christmas well wishes to other people in our community so we created extra Christmas cards in class to send out to people who live in our village.

In Maths, we have been looking again at the composition of numbers. We have talked about parts of whole numbers such as how 1 and 1 and 1 make 3 but that 2 and 1 also makes 3. We also looked at the patterns we can create using the number 4. We created 'stampolines' in provision using unifix cubes and paint. We used this to help us to see how we can make 4 in different ways. We finished our week by looking at the composition of 5! It was exciting to be able to see how numbers have other numbers inside of them.



Year One and Two-

Wow -what a super festive week we have had so far! The rehearsals for our performance of 'The Twinkly Nativity' are in full flow and the children have worked so hard on their acting, singing and dancing. We cannot wait to share it with you next week!

In Maths, Year 1 have been finishing off their unit looking at shapes. We have learnt how to sort different 2D shapes as well as continuing a variety of different shape based patterns. In Year 2, the children have been working on the tricky challenge of adding two numbers with exchange. The children have explored this practically and have started to become confident in completing this pictorially too.

In RE, the children have continued their focus on the gifts Jesus received from the Wise Men when he was born. We were very lucky when Miss Jolliffe brought in real frankincense and myrrh from her time living in the Middle East. We found that the myrrh was very sweet smelling whilst the frankincense smelt rather spicy!

In Computing, Year 1 have been mastering their skills using the Paintzapp to create digital art in the style of the artist Mondrian. The children focused on the skill of creating different sizes of squares and lines, then using the fill tool to create the blocks of colour.



#### **Foundation and KS1 Nativities...**

The children are looking forward to sharing their nativity performances with the parents. The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday 17th December at 2.00pm, doors open at 1.40pm - Foundation Nativity

Tuesday 17th December at 5.30pm, doors open at 5.00pm - KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 18th December @ 2.00pm, doors open at 1.40pm - KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 18th December @ 5.30pm, doors open at 5.00pm - KS1 Nativity

Online bookings for seats are now closed.

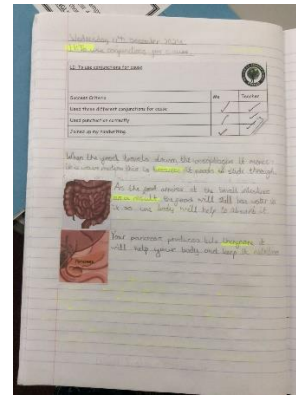
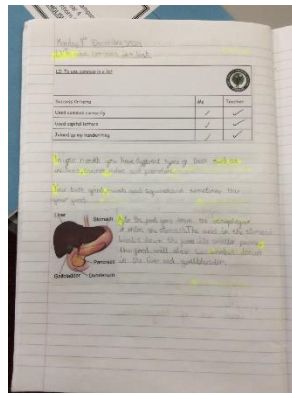
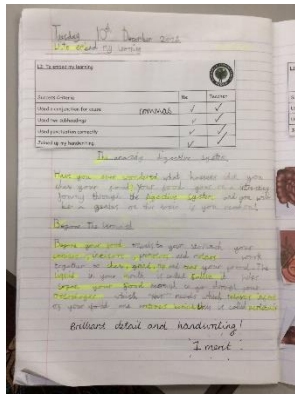
**For the evening performances, all children must return to school at 5.00pm and go to their classrooms for changing. Parents who have booked seats, may take their seats in the hall.**

**If you are not attending the evening performance, you will need to return to collect your child at 6.15pm and wait outside the hall fire door exit in the car park area.**

**Please remember there are no photos or recordings permitted for safeguarding reasons.**

#### **Year Three and Four-**

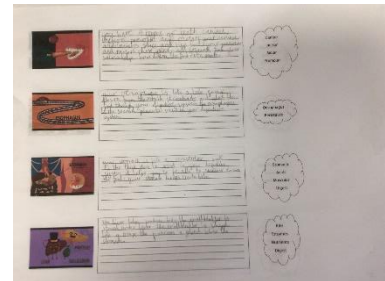
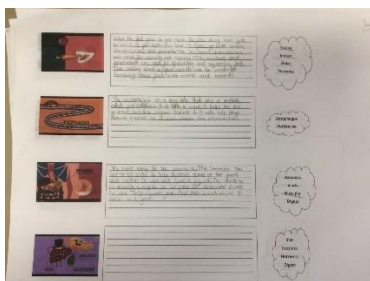
This week in English we have been writing about the Digestive system in an explanation text. We are using our Science knowledge to help us add in key vocabulary like *peristalsis* and *chyme*! Our writing has been focussing on using commas in a list and conjunctions for cause.



It has been a crafty week this week with Christmas cards on the way! We decided to use watercolour and masking tape to create Christmas trees in different colours and shades. Then used some gold and a fine brush to create the star on the top of the tree. We have some wonderful painters.



Our Innovate has officially started this week. We are writing all about the digestive system and the specific organs that play major roles in it. We started with a draft thinking about all the key information we need to include and then added some additional fun facts about the body.



Our cushions in D&T lessons are coming along nicely and we could even have some finished products by the end of the week. The children are working so hard and developing their skills of running and cross stitch.



Year Five and Six-

This week, many of the Year 5/6 students went on a fantastic trip to Queen's Park in Bedford for a faith tour. We visited the Guru Nanak Gurdwara, the Jamia Masjid Gulshan and the All Saints Parish Church. The children were able to express their learning and thoughts of the day.



Sikhism is one of the youngest religions. I like the Sikh religion because it invites all religions to its Gurdwara. Also, many religious leaders wrote in their holy book. Demi



At the Gurdwara, I learn that baptised Sikhs wear the 'five ks'. Satvinder told me all Sikh women have the same surname, meaning princess.

I recommend going to the faith tour because it was so very interesting and not just that, the people were so kind! I also recommend it because it was a lot of fun to learn about the different religions. Tilly



I enjoyed learning about the mosque in Saudi Arabia that holds 3 million people and the golden rule that it is in every religions (treat others how you would like to be treated). Leo H

I also liked our visit to the church, because we got to look around and learn about many different things. We even got to listen to someone play the organ! Clara



To my surprise, we were able to explore the church thoroughly. As we were learning about the church, it was very interactive, as he let us stand up at the front and hold different items and try some different Christian clothing. Alayna





### **Reminder - Year 6 Christmas Cracked, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December...**

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. It is our hope that all parents have now submitted a google form confirming if their child can be given a Mince Pie. If you have not yet done this, **for dietary reasons, please click [here](#) to submit NOW.** All children are to wear their school uniform. Thank you.

### **F/KS1 Entertainment...**

We are pleased to inform you that Voltage Dance Collective will be returning to school on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** to provide some fun interactive Christmas entertainment for our Foundation, Years 1 and 2 children. This has been funded by school. **Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit on this day.**

### **Attendance...**

The attendance this week is 94.3%.

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

*This week we have looked at the Advent Candles - thinking about what each candle stands for and how the Shepherds must have felt when the Angel came to tell them the news. We focused on the bible reading from Luke 2: 8 -15. The children have thought about taking some time to be thankful for all the things in their life that brings them joy. They also thought about how they could share joy with others this advent.*

### **High Ash Community Directory...**

We know a number of our parents run their own business or work in a family business. It has been suggested that we should launch a school business directory of those local businesses with an association to High Ash and hope to do this early in January.

We are offering two options; a directory listing (e.g. name, description, and contact details) or a directory listing plus ¼ page advert (assuming artwork is provided). There would be an annual fee of £40 for a directory listing and £60 for advert and listing.

In the first instance, we would like to understand if there is sufficient interest amongst parents. If you are keen for your business to be included in the directory please, complete the Google form <https://forms.gle/1JkmsWbB8b3UxVyY7>

Please see the email sent last week for more details. If you have any queries or would like more information, please contact Mrs Northen at [businessmanager@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:businessmanager@highashschool.co.uk)

### **Great Brickhill Cricket Club...**

are delighted to offer your daughter(s) this fantastic opportunity to take part in a series of **FREE** indoor cricket sessions in the new year!

In partnership with Bucks Cricket, this Dynamos course will be running for 6 weeks at 5-6pm every Wednesday from 8 January to 12 February 2025.

Please see the attached flyer for more information about how to book your daughter their free place on this exciting course.

Have a super weekend.

*Kate Goodger*

Mrs Kate Goodger  
Headteacher

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