



High Ash CE School
Weekly Newsletter
Friday 20th December 2024
'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We've made it! We have had a super week and I could not be prouder of all of our children. There have been excellent nativity productions from our very youngest children in Acorns who all did brilliantly standing on the stage, saying their lines and singing all the songs. Key Stage 1 nativity was also amazing, the Year 2's did an excellent job learning their lines and delivering them so clearly so we could all hear and the Year 1's learnt all of the words to the songs - of which there were so many lovely songs. The theme of the nativity was really about how everyone was welcome to Jesus' birth which really resonates with us here at High Ash as everyone is welcome here too.

We have also had some really hard work happening in classes even though you might think it is the last week of term - I have seen some super work from Year 1 and 2 who are very passionate about deforestation and understand how important our trees are. Year 3 and 4 have written some excellent pieces explaining how the digestive system works and Year 5 and 6 have been writing and performing sketches in the style of Horrible Histories about the Middle Ages which have been funny and historically accurate. I have also seen Year 5 and 6's making bridges out of wood - using saws and Year 3 and 4 have been using their sewing skills to make their own cushions. I can report everyone still has all their fingers intact!

With all of these amazing activities and as the autumn term draws to a close, I would like to publically thank all of the staff team at High Ash. It is always hard when your school has been labelled by Ofsted as Requires Improvement as this means that Rapid Improvement is needed. The staff team are working tirelessly to ensure that all of our children receive the very best education that they deserve and there have been many changes to the curriculum to ensure that we definitely get back to being good in our next Ofsted inspection. I really couldn't do this without the amazing team we have here. I know that you too see the dedication and commitment that the staff have for your children and we thank you all for all the kind words, cards or gifts we have received.

I would also like to thank all of our parents, I really feel that the High Ash Community is growing and that sense of belonging and all of us taking a little bit of responsibility to make High Ash the best it can be, is really shining through. The events we have hosted this term have all been well attended and HASA have really noticed a difference with parents volunteering to help or supporting events in other ways. The HASA committee and volunteers have put on some brilliant events and have already raised a significant sum of money. They will be writing to you in the New Year to give you an update on funds raised and what it will be spent on. Thank you to all of HASA.

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns -

What a wonderful final week of 2024 it has been in Acorn class. We completed our Nativity which was wonderful, the children did us all proud! We have had so much lovely feedback, we had such fun putting it together. Thank you to all our parents and carers for all your support with costumes and learning lines!

We have reviewed all that we have learned about the Christmas story and the true meaning of Christmas. We were lucky enough to get to explore a beautiful Nativity scene in class and use it as a stimulus for our conversations all about the story of Jesus' birth. We also learned more about Christmas traditions, we decorated our own Christmas tree in our role play area and spoke about how it is something that Christians have done for many years. We have also enjoyed singing our traditional carols and preparing for the Christingle service in the Church.

In Maths, we have been exploring counting and cardinality (ways of grouping) all the way up to 10. We practiced by using the rhyme '1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive...' Then we explored different representations of the numbers to 10 when counting, looking at different pictorial representations and counting out objects to match a given number to 10. We used our counting rules, 1:1 counting every object, only counting it once and stopping when we have counted them all to find the total of how many there are.

The EYFS Team and I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!



Year One and Two-

Wow! What a magical, festive week we've had! All of the children have blown us away with their confidence in our nativity performances this week - well done to all of the children for their hard work!



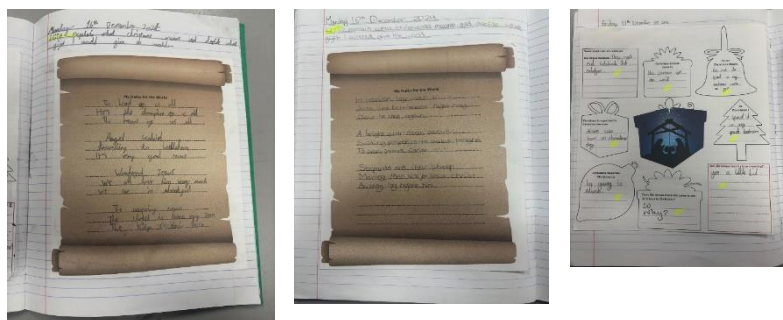
We have also been busy preparing for our Christingle service today. The children made their own Christingles where they learnt about the symbolic meaning of the orange, red ribbon, sweets and candle. The children have been also been busy learning Christmas carols for the service too!

As we near the end of the half term, KS1 have also been embarking on our innovate project. The children were sent a video and a poster which said that, on Friday this week, all of the trees in Great Brickhill are being cut down! The children have been passionate in their response and have been engaged in using their knowledge of deforestation to help them. The children staged a dramatic protest around the school site on Thursday morning - where we even disrupted some lessons! The children thought of some brilliant slogans for their placards too!



Year Three and Four-

In RE this week we have been focussing on answering our big question - has Christmas lost its true meaning? We have been thinking about what we do at Christmas and what Christians might do and how they could differ. Hearing about everyone's family traditions has been brilliant and we have even pinched a few ideas ourselves! We have written Haiku poems to show the story of Jesus and the gifts we would like to give to the world.

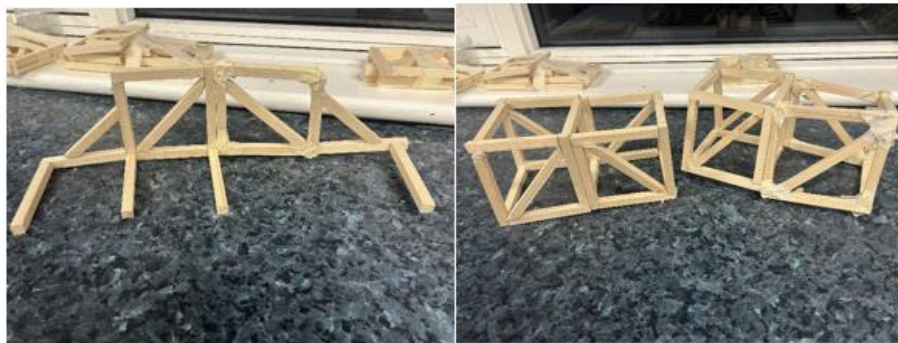


Our cushions are completed! We are working on sewing them up and then turning them inside out to create a seamless edge! We can't wait for you to see them - everyone has worked incredibly hard.



Year Five and Six-

This week, Year 5/6 have begun assembling their truss bridges. It has taken longer than expected, so at the time of photographing, they were not yet completed. However, the children have used their patience and resilience when sawing precisely and then gluing together. The accuracy of measurement and cutting have been testing during the assembly phase, however, with some handy sandpaper, they have been able to make any minor adjustments.



The children in Years 5 and 6 have been really excited about our innovate. They've been producing Horrible-Histories-style sketches showing off their learning about medieval England. There have been songs, raps, comedies and dramas full of rich detail and key facts. Many children have taken their work home to make them even better. We're so proud of all that they have achieved and there's a really rich seam of comic and musical talent throughout the year group that has been brought to the fore during this challenge.

On Thursday morning, Year 6 had the opportunity to learn more about Christmas and what it means to Christians in a fast-moving and interactive presentation called 'Christmas Cracked', courtesy of the Bridgebuilder Trust. The children completed a range of activities throughout the morning in their workbooks as well as playing charades. The children also got to design the topping on their own mince pie!



Attendance...

The attendance this week is 90%.

St. Luke's Church Services, Stoke Hammond...

Carol Singing on Sunday 22nd December at 3pm. Everyone Welcome!

Join us in singing Christmas carols and songs with mulled wine or soft drinks and mince pies or alternatives (free or make a donation).

Crib Service on Tuesday 24th Dec at 4pm. Aimed at youngsters but all are welcome.

Come for this half hour service with your children (or grandchildren) and let them find out the real meaning of Christmas. Bring a cuddly toy to share with baby Jesus (temporarily!)

Refreshments provided afterwards.

For more information, contact Dave or Diane on 270409

Christmas Holy Communion Service starts at 11.30pm on Tuesday 24th December

Be the first to celebrate Christmas with Holy Communion just after midnight.

If you would prefer a service on Christmas morning, there are Christmas day services in other parishes in the benefice. Please check the benefice website www.brickhillschurches.org.uk for details

Contact Diane on 270409 or Harry on 07773065271 for more information

Unfortunately, due to expected high winds and their potential impact on the gazebos erected to hold the tea urn, mulled wine and electronic keyboard, the Carol Singing may have to be moved to Stoke Hammond Community Centre. A decision will be made today (Friday) and posted on the Stoke Hammond Resident's Facebook Group.

Also, we would like to remind people that the foodbank is still in the church porch and has some seasonal treats for those in need.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Kate Goodger

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Headteacher

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