



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. It has been lovely to see all the children returning to school, they absolutely loved their hook days this week - so many smiles and laughter!

#### *Termly Reports...*

Next Friday you will receive your child's termly assessments stapled into your child's diary. I will also send out a letter to explain what the assessments mean. If you do have any questions, please do contact the class teachers as they are best placed to answer them.

#### *Homework...*

At High Ash CE, we believe that homework is a part of a child's overall learning. It refers to any work or activities that the children are asked to do outside school hours. It is a part of the wider partnership between home and school and so needs the support of all concerned if it is to be effective.

Use of well planned, effective homework, contributes to children's consolidation of the learning they have acquired in school. It aids the development of key skills identified in the National Curriculum, it can support the intellectual, aesthetic, creative and cultural development of the child and it encourages the development of active partnership with parents and carers, as they share in their child's learning through encouragement, interest and if appropriate, active support.

We appreciate all the support you give your children to complete the home learning expected. Please read the following expectations from our policy.

- *Pupils are encouraged to have a go at the homework first, go through with a parent/carer. If they are still unsure what to do, then they can ask their teacher who can explain further.*
- *Where pupils find it challenging to access the homework set, it will be adapted to meet their needs and provide an appropriate level of challenge. It is the responsibility of the parents to inform the class teacher either via their child's diary or speaking to the class teacher in person for these adaptations to be made.*
- *Please see Appendix in the policy for a table showing approximately how long homework should take for each year group. This is a guideline for the **minimum** amount of time that should be spent on homework, if a child or parent wishes to commit more time or practice more, then that will only benefit their child's development.*
- *As a school, we are aware that some children may be unable to access I.T. resources outside of school, similar to work being adapted, parents must inform the class teacher of this for physical copies of the homework to be produced.*
- *There will also be a homework club every Thursday lunchtime in Maple class, which will be on every week and is a club where children can get support completing their homework. This club will also have access to chromebooks for those children who have homework online to complete. Adult support in homework club will be provided by a class teacher.*
- *If homework is not completed, then a note stating as much will be written in the child's diary. Next, there will be an in person warning given to parents through a phone call for the second*

*consecutive week. The child will see the headteacher, Mrs Goodger, if there is three consecutive weeks of not completing their homework. The fourth week of incomplete homework, the child will stay in and complete their homework, supervised by the class teacher.*

To find out more about homework at High Ash CE please see our homework policy which can be found on the site/on the link below:

<https://www.highashschool.co.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=569>

#### ***Year 5/6 Parents Focus Group Meeting...***

On **Thursday 16th January from 9.00-9.45am**, Miss Whitehead and Mrs Goodger will be hosting a parent focus group meeting for all Year 5 and 6 parents. The aim of this session is for support with understanding upper key stage 2, SATs and transitioning to secondary school. If you would like to attend, please click below to submit a google form:

<https://forms.gle/yHfuchV9ARShxKux9>

#### ***Acorn (Foundation) 'See us Shine' morning...***

We are hosting our next 'See Us Shine' open morning this school year on **Friday 24th January at 9am**. You are invited to come into the Acorn classroom and spend some time with us. The teacher will have activities linked to their learning for you to explore with your children and we will share what we've been learning this term. If you would like to attend, please click below to submit a google form:

<https://forms.gle/3pLf4uNiSKdmupEs7>

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

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

##### Acorns -

This week we have started our Once Upon a Time topic by exploring the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We have listened to the story, talked about it and acted it out in the roleplay and small world areas. We have discussed Jack's choices, and we are not very pleased with his choices as he is not very kind to the giant in the story. We are equally not sure the giant has made the right choices as he should have spoken to Jack and not just chased and frightened him. We are looking forward to learning and discussing more about the story next week.

We have also been planting our own bean seeds so that we can grow our own beanstalks. We were disappointed when we came in the next day only to find that they had not grown over night like Jack's magical beans had. We plan to watch our beans change over time so that we can observe the changes that happen to it.

Acorn children have been working so hard on knowing and ordering our numbers to 5 and our numbers to 10. This was independent practice as we have learned about this in our maths lessons before the Christmas break. In our lessons this week, we have learned about mass, comparing light and heavy objects in a bucket scale and also beginning to measure the mass of objects using cubes. We also learned about capacity; we found out that capacity is how much something holds when it is completely full. We filled containers with natural materials like pebbles and pinecones to measure the capacity.



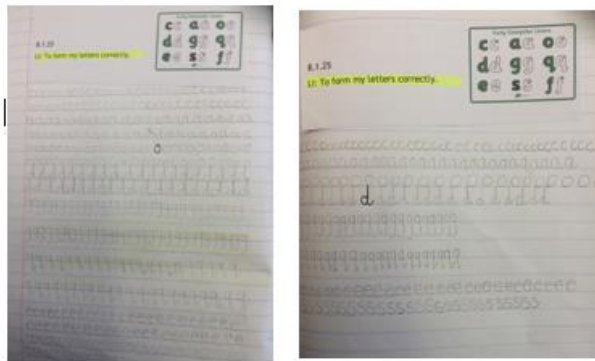
Year One and Two-

KS1 have had a fantastic return to school where they have been showing their PROUD principles in everything they do!

We have started our new topic 'Our Wonderful World' with a Hook afternoon. We explored Google Earth in class and started by looking at the difference between Great Brickhill and the capital city of Brazil; Rio de Janeiro. We were then whisked into the world of Samba and Latin dancing in the hall with Mrs Bradford. We learnt some of the basic Samba moves - remembering straight arms - and worked on our sense of rhythm. The children were impressive with their dance moves - some performers in the making! We returned to class to learn the skill of colour mixing which we will be using to apply to making world flags as we explore the wider world during our topic.



In English, we have had a renewed focus on handwriting. The children have been very focused on ensuring all of their letters are the correct size and correctly formed. In Year 2, the children are working towards beginning to join their writing which is very exciting!



In Maths, Year 1 have started their new unit looking at numbers to 20. We have started by being able to recall them in order and then began the tricky task of having to write the numbers in words. We certainly used our Fred phonics to help us!

Year Three and Four-

We have had an exciting week to start the Spring Term! Hook Day was on Wednesday and we had all sorts of fun while creating different science experiments! Our first experiment was making a bath bomb...we had to combine different solid materials together in a ball and then put it into water to watch what happens when a solid reacts with a liquid.



Our second experiment was making lava lamps... this was testing what happens when two types of liquid come together but do not mix.



Our third experiment was making bubble potions...these potions show us what happens when we mix 3 liquids which when air is blown through them make bubbles!



In Maths this week, Year 4 have been looking at factor pairs and how to use them. We started off with understanding the factor pair by creating arrays with counters. How many pairs can you find? Does it count as a factor pair if you swap the numbers round? We definitely found out lots about them this week!



#### Year Five and Six-

This week the Year 6's have been looking at metric and imperial measurements. They have been identifying the similarities and differences in these before working out how to convert between miles and kilometres, as well as converting between different imperial units.

During our hook day, we collected data about each other including facial features, such as hair and eye colour. Then, we took each other's measurements such as height, hand span, length of feet etc. and entered this information onto a spreadsheet. We were interested to learn that the length of our forearm was roughly (sometimes very roughly!) the length of our feet, and that our arm span was roughly equal to our height. In our forthcoming science lessons, we will be analysing this data further and creating graphs and charts to visualise our findings.



We played a game of guess who, by using features of the person which may or may not have been genetic or inherited. 'Am I a boy?', 'Do I have curly hair?' or, 'Was I a musician', were just some of the questions that were used to guess the person.

Using mirrors, we created self-portraits of ourselves. We considered how to make our portrait as accurate as possible by considering our unique features, including eye-colour, freckles and hair colour. Using these, we then created a class flipbook.



#### *Attendance...*

This week's attendance is 95.7%. We really want to keep attendance above 96%.

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

This week in reflections we have been looking at Online Safety. We talked about the good and bad things about being online, how we can stay safe online and what we should do if something worries or upsets us.

We have reminded children to ensure that they set their profiles to private and to never share their name, address and which school they go to online. We have also asked the children to share what they do online with adults they trust and to tell an adult if anything worries, upsets or frightens them. We reminded the children to be kind, if you would not say it to a person's face then don't write it or say it online. We also asked that all children remember to spend time with friends and family off line too!

We then reminded children of things that they mustn't do:

- Don't believe everything you see online
- Don't trust what strangers say - they could be anyone!
- Don't share personal information like your name, age or address
- Don't share pictures or videos of yourself
- Don't spend any money without checking with an adult.

We also reminded the children that in school they can talk to any adult as we are all safeguard trained. I am the Designated Safeguard Lead so that I am always available to listen to worries and if they have told another adult, I too will be informed because we all want every child in our school to be safe. Mrs Bird and Mrs Roberts are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads in my absence.

#bebotheredtobesafe

Have a lovely weekend.

*Kate Goodger*

Mrs Kate Goodger

**Headteacher**

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