



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 31st January 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

This week, we welcomed Caroline, our 'I am a Clever Writer' consultant, back to school. She came to support Miss Whitehead with monitoring how the new approach is going and identify any areas where we could be better. Caroline carried out a learning walk visiting all the classes, looked at books and worked alongside the teachers to support their own professional development. She was so impressed with how far we have come and said that lots of our children were working either at the expected standard or at the greater depth standard. Caroline also commented on how well behaved the children were in school and how they all had great behaviours for learning. The staff have worked hard to implement the new initiative and the children have worked so hard to improve their handwriting and to perfect the skills that they are being taught so that they are embedded into their work.

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns

This week we have been exploring the story of the Gingerbread man. We read the story and talked about the events, acting them out in the small world and through role play. We talked about how the fox in the story was clever and cunning and how he was able to trick the Gingerbread Man into getting right on top of his nose when going through the river and then eating him! We drew pictures of the fox and used our Fred talk to pinch the sounds and write the word fox.

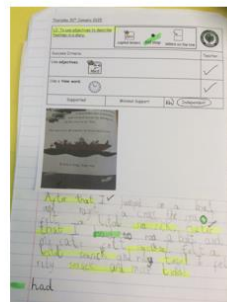
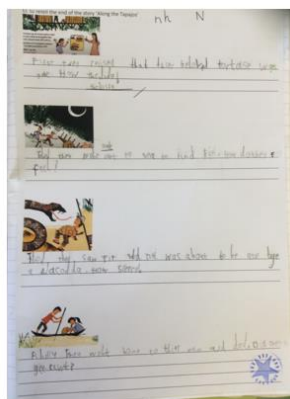
We have also been celebrating in Acorns this week! Learning all about Chinese New Year. We found out that Chinese people clean their homes, cook 8 or 9 dishes for their special meal and wear red because it is a lucky colour. We wore red tops for the day to celebrate and had our own Chinese home role play area where we tried to use chopsticks! It was very tricky! We had lots of fun exploring the story of 'The Great Race'. We found out that the Jade Emperor had animals have a race in order to decide which ones would have a year named after them. We were very shocked to learn that the rat cheated and pushed the cat into the river in order to win. We drew pictures and wrote CVC words or phrases about what happened using our phonics and handwriting skills.

In Maths this week, we have been learning more about the numbers 1 to 5. We have been applying the stable order principle - rehearsing the order of the first 5 numbers and understanding that the position each number holds in our number sequence does not change. We showed this by building the numbers 1 to 5 as steps and even secretly removing one to see if our partner could spot which one we had removed and how they knew. So if 3 was removed we knew because it fits between 2 and 4 in our steps.



Year One and Two-

KS1 have done lots of amazing learning this week. In English, Year 1 have been looking at the story called 'Ben and Gran and the Whole Wide Wonderful World.' We have been exploring how to use adjectives to describe our feelings. The children have also been embedding their knowledge of using I and my to write in the first person for a diary entry. In Year 2, the children have been developing their writing linked to the 'Along the Tapajos' story. The children have been learning how to write an exclamatory sentence starting with what or how.



In Year 1, the children have been exploring place value on a number line, estimating on a number line and comparing numbers using $<$ $>$ and $=$. In Year 2, the children have started their multiplication and division unit, learning the importance of creating equal groups.



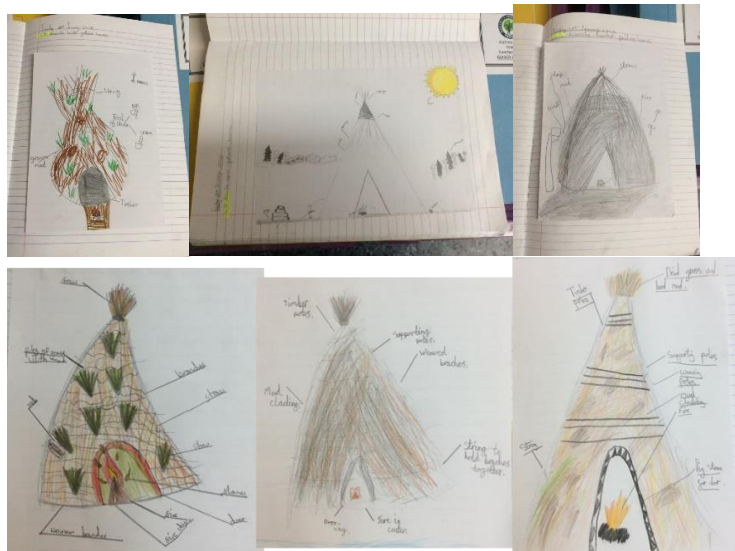
The children, in their geography lesson, have learnt all about the 5 oceans of the world using a catchy song. They added the oceans to their paper plate globes to be displayed in the classroom.

Year Three and Four-

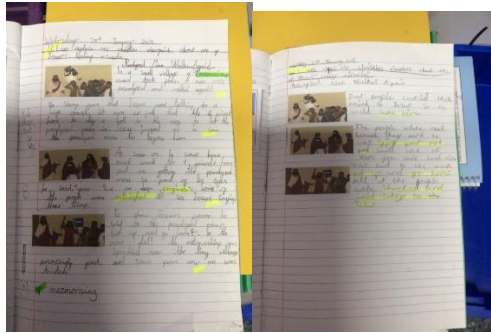
This week in Science we have been learning about the water cycle and what happens during each stage. To understand this, we drew the water cycle on ziplock bags and filled them with water to observe the water cycle over the week.



In History we have been learning about Stone Age round houses and what they were made of. We watched a video to show how these were made to help us to create our own. We drew and coloured our own roundhouses and then labelled them.



In RE we have been learning about miracles and deciding if they are due to Jesus or another explanation. This week we have been looking at the healing of the paralysed man. We learnt about and discussed the story in detail before writing a report or diary entry about the amazing miracle.



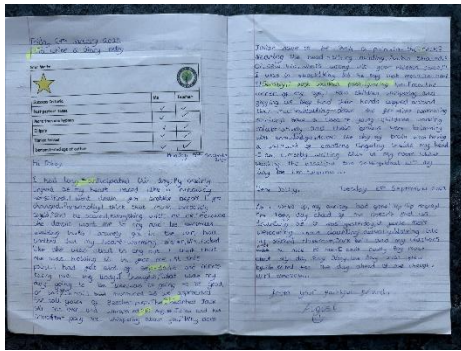
In Art we have been looking at sculpture and how they can be different. We have discovered soap carving and this week looked at wire and how we can form shapes with them and join them.



In Maths we have been looking at correspondence problems and thinking about all the possibilities we could have with each combination of cubes. We even looked at ice-cream flavours, toppings and sauces.



Year Five and Six-

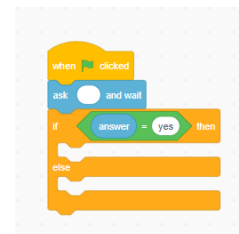


Last week in English, we wrote a diary entry based on the character Auggie, from our class novel 'Wonder'. Throughout the build-up, we looked at various different skills to use in our work including: varying the tenses, using hyphenated words, ellipsis and past perfect tense. The work that was produced in our final Star Write was amazing and it was wonderful to read such vivid pieces of writing which clearly demonstrated the age of the author whilst weaving in some tricky grammatical features.

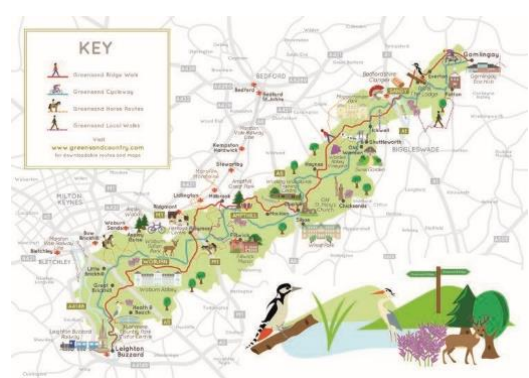
In PE this week, children have been applying their strength and balance abilities whilst considering synchronicity and reflection. Using effective communication, short routines were created in small groups, which involved moving at the same time and speed to perform a series of balances, jumps and transitions. Willow class were even able to synchronise as a class!



This week in Computing we have looked at how the "if.....then.....else" structure in coding can be used to identify two responses to a binary question - i.e. one with a 'yes' or 'no' answer. We used algorithms with a branching structure to represent the actions that will be carried out if the condition (the answer to the question) is true or false. We used the Scratch program to design and create the algorithms to test whether both outcomes can be achieved.



In Geography (and geology!) this week, we studied our local area. Did you know that Great Brickhill is situated on the Greensand Ridge (so are Woburn Sands and Sandy - the clue's in the name)? We found out that 200,000,000 years ago, this area was under the sea and was pushed up by the same tectonic plate movement that created the Alps - it was so fascinating. At one point, dinosaurs would have been swimming in the waters over what would become Buckinghamshire - how awesome is that! The children could use their knowledge of continental drift from their studies in Years 3 and 4 to help them understand these, literally, wonderful facts and apply them to their new understanding about the local environment.



Attendance..

This week's attendance is 94.6%. We sent out a letter earlier in the week to illustrate how many days off equates to the percentages. I know we all want the children to have the best opportunity and by having a great education, being in school every day, we really can give them the best start to really make a difference in this world. We want to keep attendance above 96%, so please do help support us with this.

Reflections this week...

This week we have been thinking about the message in the parable of the mustard seed. We enjoyed thinking about how a small hope could turn into a bigger one! Key stage 2 children thought of people who had a small hope and turned it into a bigger hope which eventually turned into a reality. For example; Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman and Neil Armstrong.

HASA 'World Book Day' donations...

If you have any pre-loved uniform or World Book Day outfits you would like to donate to HASA, these will be gratefully welcomed and will be re-sold on treat Fridays from now until the end of February. Let's recycle & reuse! Thank you.

Study Smart FREE Online Courses....

Aspire Education are looking to fill 150+ School Support vacancies in local schools (e.g. Teaching Assistants, SEN Support, Behaviour Mentors, 1-1 Classroom Support, Cover Supervisors etc.) These roles are available in both full time and part time positions.

They have online Fully Funded, School Support Courses starting soon. With online guided learning webinars, with friendly tutors.

Full Time - 6 Weeks - Intensive Course

Fully Funded (FREE) NCFE | CACHE Courses available in levels 1 & 2 with fully funded progressions available for 3 level - starting on **24th February 2025**.

The deadline to enrol is Tuesday 18th February!

Aspire Education Academy's courses run ONLY in term time and not during half term/end of term periods.

This is a six-week intensive course, with online live webinars with Aspire Education's friendly tutors, starting at 9:30am and finishing at 2pm (with lunch break) from Monday to Friday.

All you need is access to the internet and a computer, laptop or tablet.

If you are earning less than £23,500 per year or claiming benefits (including Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits, carers allowance or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit) you will be eligible to apply for a fully funded (free) place on our course. Take advantage of this opportunity while it's still available. Please go to: www.studysmartuk.online for more information. Please see flyer attached.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Goodger

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