



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

We have had a wonderful week this week as this half term draws to a close. The children really enjoyed our Monday's reflection where our very own Mrs Holden shared her faith and her amazing talent with us and then on Wednesday we loved having the Volkswagen visit. The girls' football team have also had two fixtures this week.

*Volkswagen visit...*

We would like to thank Mrs Adeyemo and her colleagues at the Volkswagen Group for a fantastic and inspirational event on Wednesday. Both the children and staff were so excited to hear about what goes into car manufacturing and learn some of the staggering statistics from the company. Year 5/6 were treated to some additional information about what the career journey may look like for someone working at VW and the various different roles that are involved in the automotive industry. The best part was getting to look in and around the selection of cars that were parked on our field and playground. Well done to all of the children who demonstrated their PROUD principles and behaved responsibly around the vehicles, ensuring that no damage was done!

On Wednesday, we were lucky enough for the Volkswagen group to come to our school. They shared much information about the company during an assembly before letting us go outside to see some of the cars. We learnt where their materials come from e.g., the glass came from the USA. oil from Saudi Arabia and rubber from Brazil. They shared information on where their headquarters are (Germany) and how many factories they have throughout the world. They showed us the six main brands in their core group: Volkswagen, Seat, Skoda, Audi, Cupra and Volkswagen Commercial which is lorries and other larger vehicles. We were shown statistics on the VW group such as the amount of cars made weekly on average which is around 40 thousand cars. They have 153 factories globally and have sold over 600,000 vehicles across many different brands and have sold cars in 115 separate countries. After this, we were allowed to take a look at some of the cars, including electric cars and even got a chance to sit in some of them! We learnt how we could tell the difference between diesel, petrol and electric cars.

After that, we went inside with some of the salesmen and they told us more about themselves. We did a task set by the group which included a quiz and a small drawing competition.

*By Max and Jerrold*



**Girls' football match reports...**

The girls' football match took place at Waddesdon Primary School. The game kicked off later than expected due to after school traffic. Despite the mud, both teams started off really strong. Even though there was horrible weather conditions, we pushed through the game. The team for High Ash was Emma L, Sophie H, Gaby M, Joella, Mathilda J, Cali C, Cleo G, Mila G, Emilia D. In the first half, High Ash had loads of shots and went 1 - 0 up. The goal was scored by Cali C and assisted by Emma L. After the second half, the intensity increased as Waddesdon scored an equaliser. After the game ended, we moved onto penalties. Taking the first penalty with a bleeding nose and drenched in mud, was Cali C. She had a great shot, but it got saved by the keeper. Emilia D saved Waddesdon's goal which was played towards the bottom corner. Next taking was Cleo C who barely missed leaving the audience tense. Waddesdon's penalty sadly went in the goal leaving the team relying on Emilia to score. Despite her efforts, her shot was really powerful but missed the target. We were disappointed but got rewarded with cookies and went home with cold fingers and all excited for the weekend.

On Tuesday afternoon, we travelled to Cheddington for our league match. Despite our challenging opponents, we managed to come home with a victory! It was a tense game and by the end of the first half, it was 0-0. However, with ten minutes to go, Senara Whelan scored the game winning goal, after a one-on-one attack at the goalkeeper! We shouldn't forget the brilliant saves of our very own Mary Earps (Emilia D). After modestly shaking hands



with the opposing team, Cheddington, we were treated to squash and biscuits. Well done to those who contributed to our win and thank you to the parents for transporting us.

*By Josephine and Senara*

#### *World Book day - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March...*

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate World Book Day, we invite all children to dress up as their favourite character from their favourite book. It's a fun way to bring stories to life and showcase their love for reading. In addition to the dress-up event, we are excited to host the "High Ash Great Big Book Swap" in the hall. **To take part, children will need to bring in a book that they are happy to swap for another on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, so that it can be sorted and displayed in age-appropriate categories. On the day of the swap, children will be able to visit the hall and choose a book to take home. We can't wait to see everyone's creative costumes and share some fantastic books!

#### *Whole School Trip to Woburn Safari....*

We are really excited to announce that we'll be having a whole school trip this summer, rather than different trips for each year group. We'll be taking all the children to **Woburn Safari Park on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** when we return to school after the Easter holidays. We have chosen to do a whole school trip as it fits in with the learning in all year groups. The children will be together for some of the day and then split into their year groups to take part in specific workshops and activities suited to their topic. It will be lovely to see the whole school together and we're confident it will be a great day. More information will follow after half-term. We expect the cost to be £18.00 per child, and we'll provide an instalment option so parents/carer don't have to pay in one go.

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

##### Acorns

We have had a wonderful final week of term in Acorns! We have been exploring the story of Goldilocks and the three bears. We have talked about Goldilocks' choices and how we have not been very pleased with how she chose to behave in the story. We felt she was not showing the PROUD principles in the story. We especially felt sad for Baby Bear whose chair was broken. We used our writing skills to write phrases about what Goldilocks had done.

We were wowed this week by special visitors from Volkswagen! They brought in the most wonderful cars onto our playground. We were given a presentation all about cars and the materials used in constructing them. We were then allowed to go onto the playground and see the cars and we even got to sit in them! It was such a fun experience for us all.

In Maths this week we have focused on further developing our understanding of cardinality which is how many we have in a set of objects and how it doesn't matter what colour, shape or size object we have, the total is still the same. We have looked at whether or not quantities of objects are equal or unequal, and have begun to consider how we can manipulate the number of objects in 2 sets to make them equal. Language has been a key focus and we have used the language of 'more than', 'fewer than' and 'an equal number' to describe how many objects there are in each set.

##### Year One and Two-

What an excellent week we have had! In Year 1, the children have been exploring their numbers bonds to 20, exploring all the different combinations using a tens frame and counters. The children enjoyed being competitive working in their teams too. We've learnt about how addition is commutative and we've also explored how to use bar models too! In Year 2, the children have been learning how to divide by 2 through using their knowledge of equal groups.

On Wednesday afternoon, we had a fantastic time with Volkswagen. The children were able to showcase their geography knowledge of the continents, and location of countries around the world, whilst learning about where the different parts of cars come from in the assembly. The children enjoyed getting to sit in the cars on the playground and had fun designing their own futuristic car! We've definitely got some great car designers in the making!

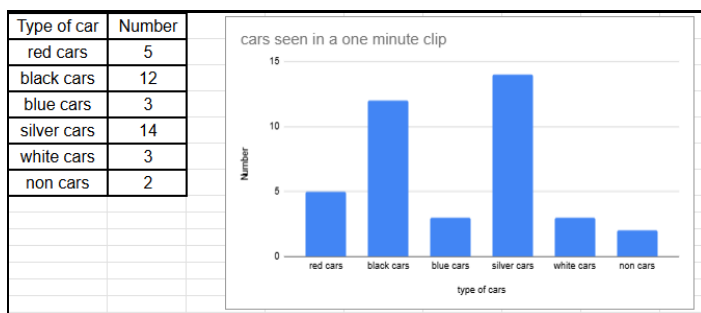
In RE, the children have been learning about some of the stories of Santana Dharma such as the story of Ganesha and Lakshmi. The children then used their performing arts skills to act out the stories in small groups.

In computing, the children have been learning how to programme Beebots to navigate around a grid. The children had to think about how to pre-plan the route - thinking about the number of turns and rolls forward the Beebot would need to take.

Next half term, we will be starting our topic called Land Ahoy! We will be starting off with our hook day on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. **On this day, we are inviting all of the children to come into school dressed as a pirate!** During the day, we will be developing our own pirate names, going on a treasure hunt and learning how to use a compass.

Year Three and Four-

This week in computing we collected and presented data. We watched a clip of vehicles and counted the different types. We then created a table using google sheets to present the data we collected.



This week in Art we made shadow art based on Sokari Douglas Camp's work. We thought about words that described our classes and wrote/cut them out to create a shadow.



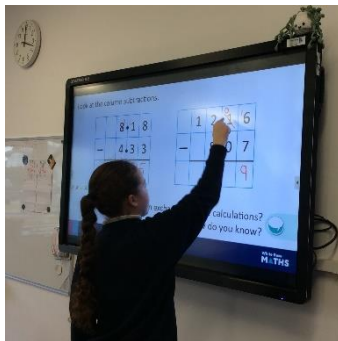
We then looked at El Anatsui's art and created a sculpture from recyclable packaging.



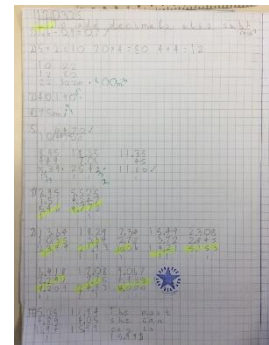
This week was our Innovate. We presented our TV show clips to the class. We demonstrated an experiment or explained an aspect of States of matter with use of props and in some cases, costumes!



### Year Five and Six-



This week in Miss Whitehead's maths group, we have been taking our understanding of place value and decimals even further by looking for complements to one, which has meant applying our knowledge of number bonds. Then, whilst remembering our place value, we began to add and subtract decimal numbers, up to 3d.p!



Our innovate this half term involved solving a crime! A rare blue diamond was stolen and, with the little evidence there was, we had to determine who was likely to be guilty. We were able to apply our knowledge of inherited and non-inherited traits to explain who was guilty and why. For example, we knew that a suspect with red hair could not have committed the crime as brown curly hair was discovered at the scene. We also used punnet squares to determine the likelihood of a person having a certain set of genes, based on their parents. Finally, we wrote detailed reports for the lead detective, to support the case.

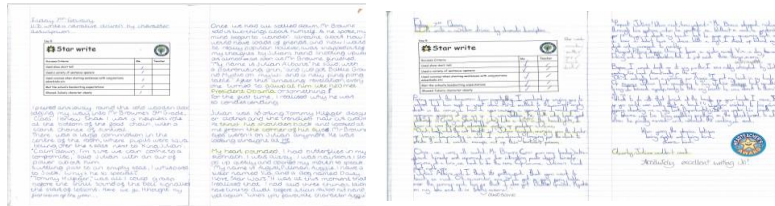


This half term, we have based our guided reading and many of our English lessons on the book 'Wonder' by R J Palacio. This has linked beautifully with our topic of ID. We discovered that the main protagonist, Auggie, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face, has inherited facial differences and that his sister Via is a carrier of that chromosome. This linked with our understanding of how traits can be inherited and more particularly how colour-blindness can be prevalent in some families with some of the members having colour-blindness and others (like Mrs Gray) being a carrier with ordinary colour sightedness.

Not only did the book connect with our science work, it was also applicable to PSHE lessons through the precept 'When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind'.

We studied the nature of friendship, tenacity and diversity but also considered the traits of those who are less kind. We wrote using the method 'show don't tell' using vocabulary such as 'smirked', 'sneered', and 'mocked' to characterise people by their actions as well as their language.

The children have blown us away with their excellent understanding, thoughtful contributions and super writing. We thoroughly enjoyed reading the book and for those of you who haven't yet, the film is highly recommended viewing for a rainy February half term - just have a box of tissues to hand!



### Attendance...

This week's attendance is 92.3%, this is lower than the national figures published. Any day missed of school does have an impact on your child's learning. A week of missed learning means that your child is at a disadvantage to their peers. It is always amazing with how much progress children can make in a week. Learning in schools means that every lesson is a building block to achieving great things. Once learning is missed, the teachers do their best to catch the child up yet you cannot make up 5 hours of learning or more, so then gaps appear. We all know that if you have shaking foundations or gaps in your walls it is harder to build on. This is why it is so important that children attend school **every day** where possible. Where there is illness, a day or two off is normally all that is needed and then children stand a better chance of filling the gaps of learning that they have missed. We really appreciate your support with improving our school attendance.

### Reflections this week...

This week we were very lucky to have our very own Vicki Holden lead reflections. She shared with us her faith and talked about their being two types of hope - 'coin flip hope' and 'gravity hope'. Mrs Holden then sang two of her own songs that she has written - the children loved it! You can find out more about Mrs Holden on her website and listen to her songs on YouTube.



Our bible reading this week has been, Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

### HASA Book Give Away...

We gratefully received pre-loved books donated by HASA to all our Foundation children this week. They were individually wrapped & named one for each child. Thank you so much. Please read attached HASA information flyer.



Have a lovely half term week next week and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

*Kate Goodger*

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