



# High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025



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

## Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Welcome back to school! We have certainly started the term with joy - which is our theme this half term #beothered - 'do it with joy!' Our trip to Woburn was a fantastic start and although the weather threatened to spoil it, we actually saw some sunshine! The animals were amazing and there were so many amazed faces. It was great to all enjoy this experience all together. We have to thank all of you who made the trip happen and a special thank you to some anonymous families who donated money to ensure that the school budget was not impacted by those families who were unable to pay. We truly appreciate it and I wish I could share with you the joy it brought to so many faces!

### **VE Day...**

To commemorate **VE Day on Thursday 8th May**, we are asking all children to wear **red, white, and blue**. This day marks the end of World War II in Europe, celebrating peace and remembrance. It's a meaningful opportunity for children to learn about history and honour those who served, which we will be marking in both whole school and class reflections. Please make your donations to the Royal British Legion, who support veterans, by following this link to our Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/high-ash-2>



***Lego Bricks...***

We are kindly asking for donations of any old or unused LEGO bricks to support our \*\*Design and Technology curriculum in Year 5/6. LEGO will be used to help pupils explore construction, design, and problem-solving in creative, hands-on ways. If you have any spare bricks at home, please consider sending them in with your child. Your support will greatly enhance learning and engagement in our DT lessons. Thank you for your generosity and help!

***Kitchen - Food Hygiene Inspection...***

Congratulations to Michelle, Lizzie and Vikki. They received an unexpected Food Hygiene Inspection this morning and received 5 Stars. Well done! The lady who carried out the inspection was pleased to see high standards of food hygiene were being maintained.

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

**Acorns**

Acorns have had a short but wild week! We had our amazing Woburn trip. The children were so excited to get on the coach! For some of us, it was the first time we had ever been on a coach. The children sat so well and we were so excited when we reached Woburn. I then shared facts about the animals we saw as we went through the drive-in safari. We were amazed to find out that one of the tigers was allergic to meat! It only eats fish which means it was pescatarian. The children were able to see the lions, bears, rhinos and even wolves. We got to see the sea lion feeding show and saw how speedy the penguins can be underwater.

We also had a really fun learning session led by the keepers who talked to us about different animals and what they eat. They reviewed which were herbivores, omnivores and carnivores and showed us examples of their teeth that we could hold and look at. We also got to play a game of matching the plastic poo model to the animal that we thought it belonged to! We were shocked at how small a giraffe poo was.

All of the Acorn children made us very proud! They represented High Ash beautifully all day and really were stars.

In Maths, we explored 2D shapes and reviewed the names 'circle, square, triangle and rectangle'. We then looked at a set of shapes and had to choose which one didn't belong. We had to explain which shape we thought didn't belong. We did not all have the same ideas about which one as there was more than one shape you could choose. The children did well justifying their choice!



Year One and Two-

Wow! What an amazing start to the Summer term with our exciting trip to Woburn Safari Park to launch our new topic. We had a lot of fun exploring all of the animals from the coach and were very lucky that they were all out exploring! We loved watching the American black bears as well as the cheeky monkeys. Our coach ride was very informative with Mrs Barrasford's commentary! Once we got off the bus we had a workshop learning about carnivores, omnivores and herbivores and how we can tell what animals eat through their poo! We particularly enjoyed holding a real elephant poo which had thankfully been covered in resin!



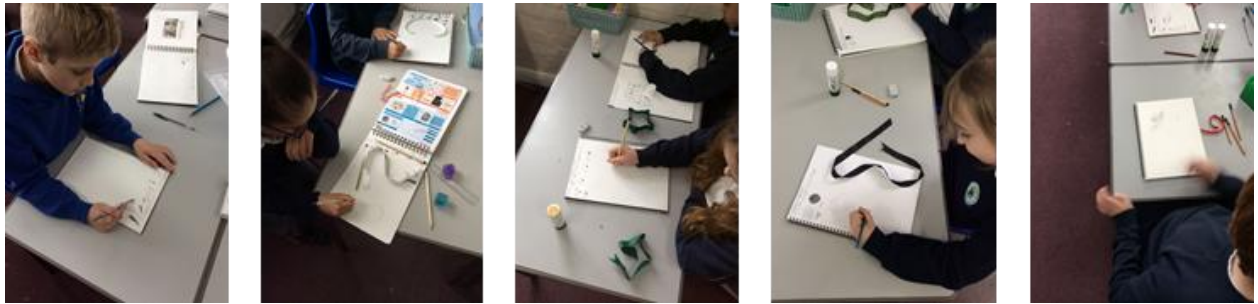
On Thursday, we started a new unit in Art exploring clay to make sculptures. We began by learning the skills of rolling with a rolling pin, making a sausage shape and a smooth ball. We then progressed to making some pinch pots and then attaching different elements using the 'slip and stick' method. We were very impressed by the children's creations.



Year Three and Four-

In Year 3 and 4, we blocked our art lessons and developed our learning of drawing and shading. We revisited our knowledge of tone and how to create different tones using just a pencil! To help us showcase our knowledge, we placed ribbons on the table and drew them, using tone and shading to show the contrasting light and dark.





We then looked at drawing and shading with charcoal and a rubber. We created a wash of charcoal on the page as a base and 'drew' with our rubbers to set out the picture before we added shadow and texture with our charcoal pencils. We have some super charcoal artists!



Our third lesson was all about making a picture with scissors. We cut up images on paper and created our own design. This is to show you can use any material to make a piece of art. We were looking at the light and shade of each section we had cut up and how to arrange them in the most interesting way.



To show light, shade and different tones, we created a wax resist piece. We covered our pieces of paper in wax crayon, using different colours. We then covered the paper with black paint so we could use it to scratch away and leave the design.



We had a great time at Woburn on Wednesday! The animals were out in force and we saw so many brilliant sights.



Year Five and Six-

Year 5/6 joined the rest of the school on a fantastic trip to Woburn Safari Park for our Hook Day on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many animals both on the road and the foot safari. Our classroom session was specifically tailored to our topic of Darwin's Delights, focusing on adaptation and evolution. We looked at the skins of two different animals from the same habitat and considered how their adaptations have allowed them to survive.

We all knew these type of memories would last a lifetime.

Callum Q



As we entered the dangerous animal enclosure we didn't see anything at first but then we spotted a beautiful tiger prowling the perimeter.

Mylo



We went to see clawed otters who squealed as if it was to say hi to us. We walked through wallabies leaping with their babies in their pouch. In addition, we watched the parrot show as macaws soared over our heads. We saw penguins and seals who did backflips in the water and dives underwater. We were lucky enough to see 2 red panda babies which was adorable.

Gaby

The bird of prey show was amazing! The owls were HUGE and flew right over our heads!



We learned about camouflage and I actually got to feel a real zebra hide - it was not as soft as I expected, it was rough and felt thick. The stripes help them to hide from predators. They hide in groups and stand up when they sleep.



There were so many black bears - we counted loads and they were all doing funny things. I really liked watching the bear scratch his back on the tree. The teacher's said it was just like in Jungle Book.





**Attendance...**

This week's attendance is 96%, please keep on sending the children into school!

**Badgers and Dynamos Cricket at GBCC....**

We are that time of year already when the cricket season is starting. GBCC have lots of sessions running for juniors - including a girl's only Dynamos session which is run by one of their female cricketers who plays at international level. They are incredibly lucky to have Amelia Jones coach both of the Dynamos sessions and more excitingly the girls only Dynamos is FREE!

We have attached the flyer for the Badgers and girls only Dynamos sessions. To book the girls Dynamos for free there is a voucher code that comes up on the booking page and you simply enter this to book a place FOC.

More details on the Dynamos sessions can be found here:

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/greatbrickhill/Course/5e0e3e72-29e7-493c-928b-6189ae0a00db>

**Diary Dates for w-c 28/4/25...**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Mixed Year 5/6 Football game v St. Micheals School (Away)

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April - Y3/4 Bucks Cricket Session

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - KS2 Star Assembly at 2.55pm, doors open at 2.45pm. Invitation only.

Have a great weekend.

*Kate Goodger*

Mrs Kate Goodger

**Headteacher**

[headteacher@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@highashschool.co.uk)