



High Ash CE School  
 Weekly Newsletter  
 Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

I have to share some brilliant news with you all! This week we received the results for the Key Stage 2 SAT tests. The staff have been working really hard to ensure that the children were well prepared for the tests and had acquired the skills and knowledge of the Key Stage 2 Curriculum to perform well in the tests. This is no mean feat as there were gaps in knowledge and we have changed the curriculum delivery whilst these children have been going through Key Stage 2. The children have been superb, they have been working really hard to ensure that they were retaining the knowledge and skills taught and were able to apply them independently in test situations.

	2025 Results			National Standards 2025			School results improvement compared to 2024 results.
	Working towards the standard	Working at the expected standard or above	Working at Greater Depth Standard	Working towards the standard	Working at the expected standard or above	Working at Greater Depth Standard	
Grammar, Punctuation and spelling	22%	78%	30%	27%	73%		↑ 6%
Reading	12%	88%	48%	25%	75%	28%	↑ 17%
Writing	22%	78%	25%	26%	74%	12%	↑ 9%
Maths	17%	83%	18%	28%	72%	23%	↑ 12%
Combined score (Children got expected for R, W and M)		73%			63%		↑ 14%

As you can see from the table above we are above the National figures for all areas. This is a huge improvement from last year. I would like to thank all the children who have worked incredibly hard and all our talented teachers. Well done!

**Help Shape Our New School Menu!**

As we plan our school menu for the new academic year starting this September, we'd love to hear from *you!* We're looking to refresh our offering with delicious, home-style meals—and we know that many of our families have amazing dishes they cook and enjoy at home.

We're especially keen to include recipes from a variety of countries and cultures, so our menu truly reflects the diversity of our High Ash community.

Do you have a dish your child loves that you think others might enjoy too? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Michelle, our Catering Manager, by either:

Calling the school office and asking to speak to Michelle, or emailing her directly at: [kitchen@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:kitchen@highashschool.co.uk)

While we may need to adapt recipes slightly to cater for over 200 children, we'd be delighted to include your ideas in our menu planning.

Thank you for helping make our school lunches even better!

#### *Ned's Resilience - a special assembly for all...*

We all enjoyed a fantastic NED Resiliency Assembly yesterday, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July. The children were inspired by NED's story and wowed by some amazing yo-yo tricks!

The assembly focused on three key life lessons:

- Never give up!
- Encourage others!
- Do your best!

Yo-yos are available to purchase via the MCAS app:

- On desktop, go to Products
- On a mobile device, go to the Store section

Online sales will be available until 17th July after which orders will be handed to your child to bring home. Every order will receive a NED'S SIX TRIX sheet with step-by-step instructions.

Thank you for supporting this valuable message of resilience and growth mindset!

#### *Year 5/6 Production - Book Your Tickets Now!* 🙌

Our Year 5/6 children have been working incredibly hard to perfect their performances and can't wait to entertain you!

If you haven't yet booked your tickets, please do so via your MCAS app.

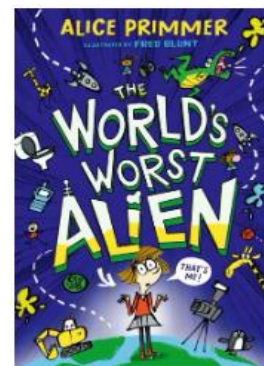
- **Bookings will close on the morning of Monday 14th July.**

Don't miss out—secure your seats today and come support our fantastic performers!

#### *Visit by local author...*

We are delighted that local author, Alice Primmer, will be visiting our school on **Friday 18th July** to discuss her book 'The World's Worst Alien'. School visits from authors are a fantastic way to bring books and reading to life, and really help children to engage with stories and boost their literacy.

We have copies of 'The World's Worst Alien' available to buy. Copies are £6.99 saving £1 on recommended retail price. If you would like to order a copy for your child, please visit the products page on MyChildAt School. Alice will be happy to sign copies during the visit.

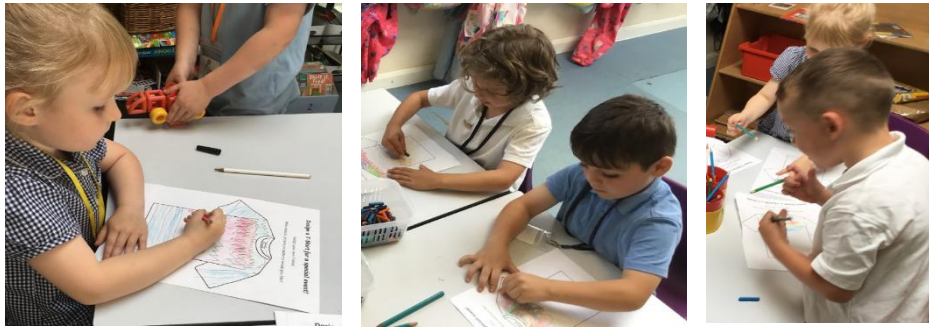


*Learning highlights this week...*

Acorns



This week in Acorn class we have been building on our work on special places from last week and have learned about how the church is special to Christians, the mosque is special to Muslims and the synagogue is special to Jews. We looked at pictures of these special places and watched videos that showed us the important parts inside the special places. We talked about how they are special because they are a place where people come together to worship and spend time together. We also built models of the different special places of worship that we had learned about. We talked about what we noticed made them the same and what made them different.



After learning about all of these special places we then talked about what we would wear to go to a special place. We designed our own special T-shirts that we would wear and spoke about which colours we had chosen and how we would feel wearing them. We talked about how important it is to be the best version of yourself, especially when going to a special place as it is part of showing respect and how we can show that we know that the place we are in is important.

Year One and Two-

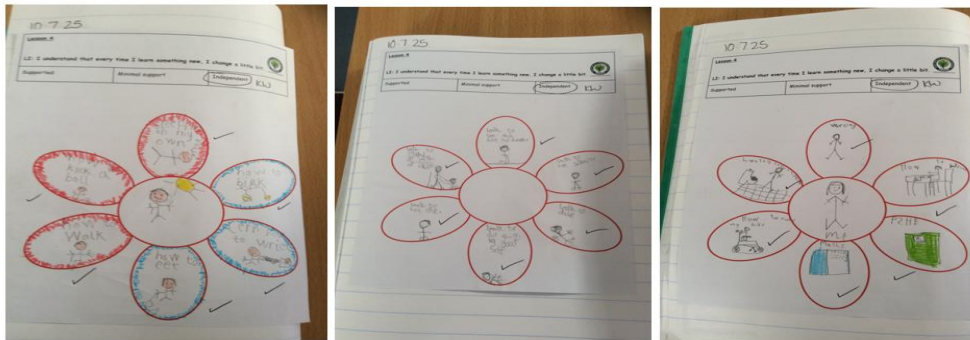
This week in KS1, we have started to become smoothie chefs! In our DT lessons we have been exploring different fruits and deciding which of these would be the best to go into our delicious smoothie recipes. We learnt how to chop the different fruits safely and juice an orange carefully. After tasting the different fruits, we selected three which we would like to put into our smoothie next week.



In English, Year 1 have been using the story of 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcis Pfister to write a retell. Our skill focus has been on using the word 'said' In Year 2, the children have been looking at the Storm Whale by Benji Davies to retell the opening of the story.

In Maths, Year 1 have been continuing to explore place value all the way up to 100. We have been learning how to partition numbers into tens and ones as well as finding one more and one less than different numbers. In Year 2, the children have been consolidating their learning of addition and subtraction.

In PSHE this week, the children have been looking at how we have changed over time. The children created 'change flowers' where they had to draw and write a different skill they have learnt since they were a baby on each petal.



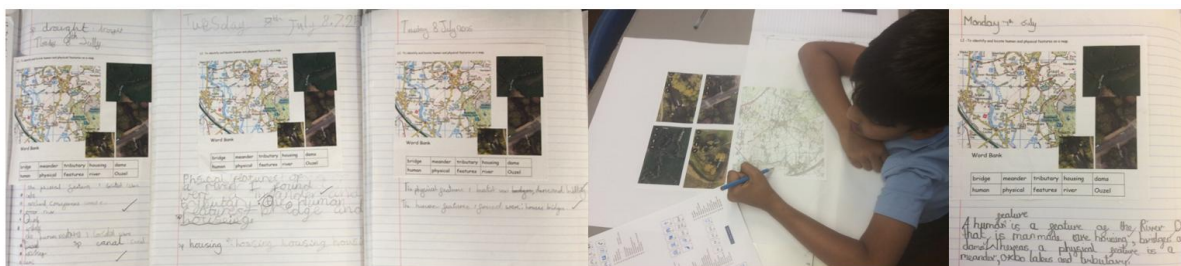
In RE this week, the children have been devising their own symbol to remind them to find times of focus and peace. The children then had to decide which every day object they would put their symbol on to help them in their everyday life.

### Year Three and Four-

As we prepare for our exciting fieldwork trip next week on **Wednesday 16th July**, we've been exploring local rivers to round off our topic.

In class, we studied the key features of rivers and discussed what we might observe during our visit to the fisheries. To support our learning, we examined **Ordnance Survey maps**, focusing on how river features are represented using symbols and keys.

This has helped us build the map-reading skills we'll need for our trip—and made us even more excited to see those features in real life!



Our Music lessons have been filled with performances! This week we have put together all of our melodies and created a rainforest piece, using loops and body percussion to imitate the sounds of the rainforest.



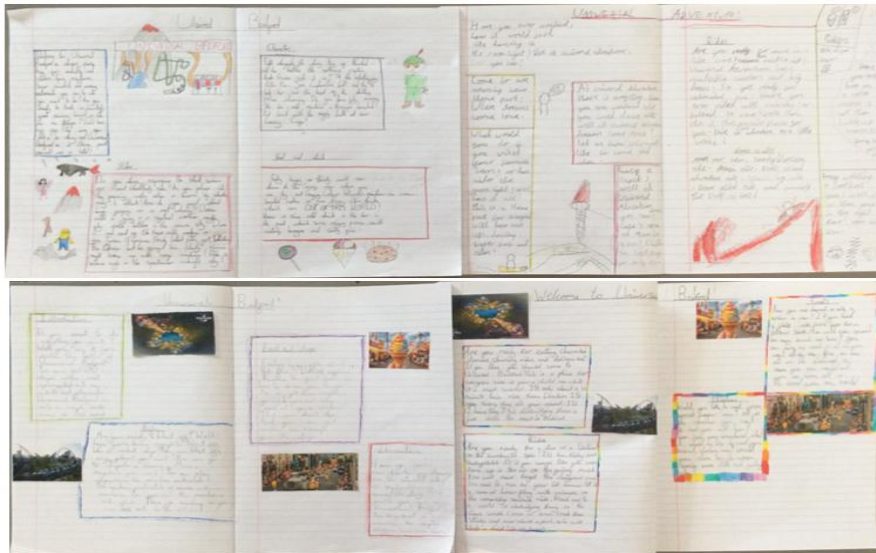
We may have some architects in our midst! The pavilions created by the children over the last few weeks have gone from strength to strength with some fantastic designs and ideas around how they could clad and piece together their walls and ceilings to make it both aesthetic and practical.



On Wednesday, we had some visitors from Cottesloe school again! The head of Art and some Year 12 students came to give the children in Hazel class a lesson all about drawing portraits. We learnt how to use mirrors to draw ourselves, looking at what to draw first and building on that small step.



Our English work (double page persuasive texts) about Universal Bedford are looking amazing. We wrote sections on the rides, the food and the characters that will be seen. Our finished work aims to encourage people to visit. We have taken a lot of care over the presentation...



Year Five and Six-

In Art this week, Year 5 and 6 children have been learning the traditional skill of copying using a grid. They had their photos taken, very accurately measured a grid over them and have begun transcribing to a similar grid on plain paper. Many have had huge success and we can't wait to finish with colour in our next lesson!



In RE, we have been writing poems about what commitment means, especially to Christians, using our learning from across this half term. We have had some lovely pieces written.

<p>Going to church isn't essential          Not going doesn't make that much differential          Peace, kindness, self-control          Removes that sinful toll          Who remembers Saul A.K.A Paul          Made blind to help find help find his holy side          On his holy grind he took more on this holy ride          Gentleness is what you seek          To help the feeble and weak          C-O-M-M-I--T-M-E-N-T          Commitment is what you seek  <b>Demi</b></p>	<p>Showing commitment is doing good deeds.          Helping the homeless and people with needs.          Peace is critical, much like love          Sent from heaven, a beautiful dove.            Continue to show love and kindness,          Will help make you future's brightness.          Not just doing what you meant to do,          Going beyond will help you too.  <b>Emma, Henry, Alfie, Yasmin and Mila</b></p>	<p>Showing commitment is all about good deeds          Like helping the poor and helpless with their needs          I show my commitment with all of my gentleness          Because doing this shows my faithfulness            My absolute self-control is critical          It shows my love to one and all          My love and kindness          Is part of my goodness            I adore the peace from heaven above          Shown by God through the dove          My passion for him is shown on my face          May I be blessed by God's grace  <b>Jerrod</b></p>
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Last week, Year 5/6 planned an exciting science investigation to explore how the angle and position of a light source affects the length of a shadow. This week, they finally had the chance to carry it out!

Working in small groups, the children used simple equipment—including metre sticks, a block, and a torch—to set up their investigations. We may have chosen one of the sunniest weeks of the year to explore shadows indoors (not ideal when you're relying on torches!), but we adapted well by pulling down all the blinds—a brilliant idea in the heat!

Through their hands-on work, the children discovered that the higher the angle of the light source, the shorter the shadow it creates. More importantly, the experiment helped everyone develop a better understanding of the three types of scientific variables:

- Independent variable - the angle of the torch
- Dependent variable - the length of the shadow
- Controlled variables - the position of the block, the distance from the torch, and so on.

It was a fantastic opportunity to apply our scientific skills and to learn more about how to design and carry out a fair test. Well done, Year 5/6!



This week, as a parting gift, Year 6 had a final session with Mr Pete (previously Commando Pete). He taught the children all about a famous survivor of the Titanic and they used Morse code to decipher messages. The children built their 'ships' and defended themselves from attack. It was wonderful to have Mr Pete back into school and we are looking forward to welcoming him in September, as he launches his own programme, focusing on resilience, key historical individuals and our PROUD principles.





*Reflections this week...*

This week we have been looking at Ephesians 6:17 *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We talked about what salvation means by explaining to the children that in Christianity, it means being saved from sin and being brought close to God. We all sometimes do things that are wrong – like lying, being mean, or not listening. These things are called sins, and they separate us from God. But God loves us so much that he is always happy to listen to our requests of forgiveness and he does forgive us. We went on to read the Bible story, The Lost Sheep. Really thinking about why it was so important to find one lost sheep when 99 of the sheep were still with the shepherd and what this symbolises. It made us think about how everyone is important and deserves to be ‘found’.*

*Attendance...*

This week’s attendance is 93%, please keep on sending the children into school, remember every day counts! Please always email [absence@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:absence@highashschool.co.uk) for every child your child is absent.

*Diary dates w-c14<sup>th</sup> July...*

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Dress Rehearsal in front of the whole school

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 4.30-8.30pm - District Athletics Championships. Invitation only!

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2.00pm (doors open at 1.45pm) and 6.00pm (doors open at 5.30pm) - Year 5/6 EofY Production\*

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 6.00pm (doors open at 5.30pm) - Year 5/6 EofY Production\*

**\*ALL CHILDREN TO ARRIVE AT 5.30PM FOR BOTH EVENING PERFORMANCES AND TO BE COLLECTED AT 7.30PM**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 9.15-11.15am - Year 3/4 Alders Farm Fishery field trip

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Alice Primmer, local Author visiting

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2.10pm - Final F/KS1 Star Assembly. Invitation only! Doors open at 2.00pm

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2.55pm - Final KS2 Star Assembly. Invitation only! Doors open at 2.45pm

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1.45pm - Year 6 Leavers Blessing at Church. Parents welcome!

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 7.00-9.00pm - Year 6 Leavers Party

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2.00pm - Year 6 Leavers Assembly. Parents welcome! Doors open at 1.50pm

**LAST DAY OF TERM - WE FINISH AT THE NORMAL TIME**

Have a great weekend.

*Kate Goodger*

Mrs Kate Goodger

Headteacher

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