



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 5th September 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Welcome back to school! We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and are pleased to be back at school. Over the summer we have had some improvements made to the school. We have changed the office so there is now a wall in place for Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Ward to have a secure work space. We also had the main corridor painted and there will be art work going up in the corridor as the term progresses. We have had a sandpit and stage installed outside. We have a den building area on the KS2 playground and lots more activities and equipment which parents last year donated as part of the class lotto game. This means that the children are more actively engaged during playtimes and there are a lot of interactions taking place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Priestley and Mrs Northen who made my ideas happen! Also, thank you to all the staff who volunteered their time over the summer to support the changes in the playground.



Library...

Over the Summer, we had Buckingham Bookshop come in and audit our library. We have now got rid of the tatty books, books that were too old or not appropriate and we have purchased some new books. We will be having new books arrive at different times over the year to ensure that our library is current. The partnership with Buckingham Bookshop also supports us as a school to keep abreast of the very best authors out there and they will also let you as parents know what books to look out for - for your children. We also hope to arrange authors visits over the year to really bring reading to life at High Ash.

When we were auditing the library, we became aware that there were many books that were missing. Please can you look at home and see if any of our school books have accidentally appeared on your bookshelves. This year we will be charging £5 for lost books - I hope you understand that we just do not have the budget to keep replacing lost books. Thanks for your support with this.

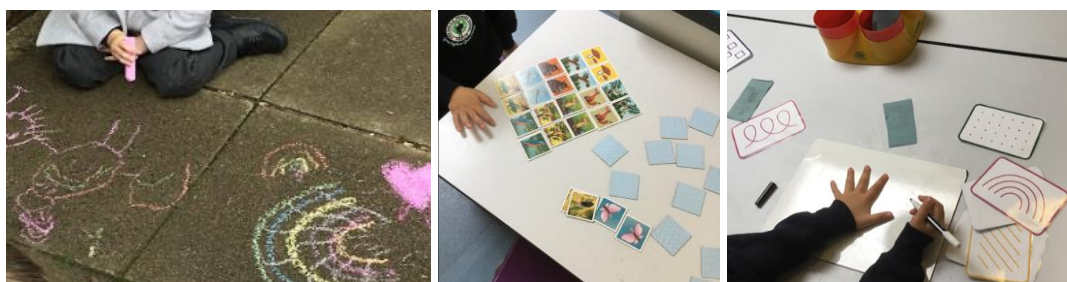
It's only been two days this week yet look what has been going on in your child's year group!

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns

What a wonderful couple of days we have had! It has been so great to see our Acorn children coming in and starting so well in class. They were so brave at waving goodbye to their special grown-ups, coming into class and playing with our toys. They were sharing, taking turns and making new friends. We talked about how lucky we are to have our learning spaces and how we need to 'choose it, use it and put it away' when we play to keep our classroom and outside area tidy and safe. We look forward to the children all starting full time on Monday, they will come in from the gate at the back of the classroom on the playground and the doors will open at 8.40am. Please collect from the gate at 3.20pm. We can't wait to get started next week! Please remember to send in the diary folders every day and use the notes section to give us any important messages.

Next week PE will be Tuesday and Friday but after that it will always be on a Thursday and a Friday. Please send your child into school fully dressed for PE. Also, please ensure your child brings in a coat everyday as the weather is very unpredictable! We will begin Forest School in a couple of weeks, please ensure your child has a pair of named wellies and if possible a named puddle suit that we can keep in school so that we can go out in all weathers! Thank you. Mrs Bird



Year One and Two

We are so proud of the way that our new Year 1 and 2 classes have begun the school year. They have most definitely started as they mean to go on, approaching the changes with enthusiasm, determination and huge smiles. Thursday and Friday have mainly been taken up with getting to know each other, learning new routines and exploring the Continuous Provision in our classrooms. Budding authors are using the Writing Stations to tell stories and we have been impressed with the choices the children are making to develop their learning independently. We have started our new RWI Handwriting scheme and in PSHE we have been discussing our Hopes and Fears for the new school year. The rain has not dampened our spirits and we christened the new playground stage with a danceathon! If you are able to donate any 'character' hats (Top Hats/Cowboy Hats etc) or glasses/feather boas/shawls for our stage area we would be incredibly grateful. Well done KS1. We love having you back and we are excited to see the learning that will happen next week. Mrs Barrasford, Miss Bright and Mrs Fox



As part of your child's history topic this term, we'll be creating personal timelines. Please could you send in physical wallet size photographs of your child as a baby, toddler and current age. These will be used to help us build their own timeline and explore how we all change and grow. **Please send the photos in by Friday 12th September.**

At the beginning of October, we'd love to show the children some real items from the past. If you have any artefacts from the 1950s or 1960s that you'd be happy to lend us (even just for a short time), please let us know. Thank you!

Our PE Days:

Apple - Tuesday and Wednesday

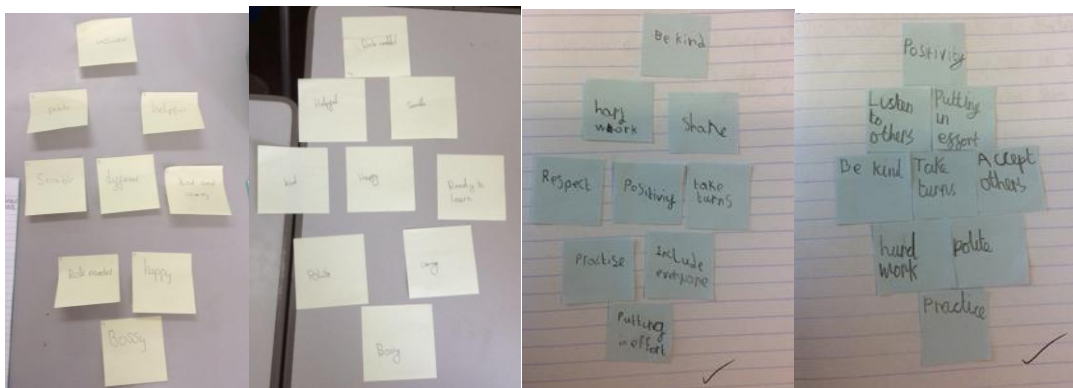
Cherry - Monday and Tuesday

Chestnut - Tuesday and Friday

All children are to come into school wearing their PE kit on these days.

Year Three and Four

We have started the term with such fantastic behaviour and a real enthusiasm for learning. This week we have been engaging with our PSHE topic 'Being me in my World' learning all about the roles and responsibilities around our school and the importance of working as a team in and outside of the classroom. We had some fantastic thoughts about the UNCRC and the UN as a whole, understanding our rights and the rights of a child yet understanding that some children may not have the same rights as us.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed having new equipment outside to explore and learn with. Lunchtime today (without the downpours) was fantastic for us all!



Art lessons this half term -

Could you please bring to school cereal boxes, cardboard of different shapes and sizes, newspaper and any kind of junk modelling materials you may have. **Ideally, we would need the cereal boxes by the 9th September at the latest.**

Mrs Underwood, Mrs Weatherall, Miss Maylor and Mrs Boyd

Our PE Days:

Hawthorn - Monday and Thursday

Hazel - Thursday and Friday

Holly - Monday and Thursday

All children are to come into school wearing their PE kit on these days.

Year Five and Six

We have started the term with a PSHE focus. This half term, we are considering the rights and responsibilities of ourselves and others. We have used vocabulary such as: asylum, refugee, migrant, persecution and conflict. As these topics are so prevalent in the news at the moment, we were able to have some really amazing discussions. Throughout our conversations, we referred to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. We recognised that all children have many rights, yet these come with responsibilities. We also looked out our school vision statement and considered what this actually meant for children at High Ash. Recognising that our vision is similar to our goals for the school, we looked at our personal and academic goals for this year. Finally, we considered what we need to help us learn, combining our knowledge of children's rights and what our goals are.

Mrs Derham, Mrs Gray and Miss Jolliffe

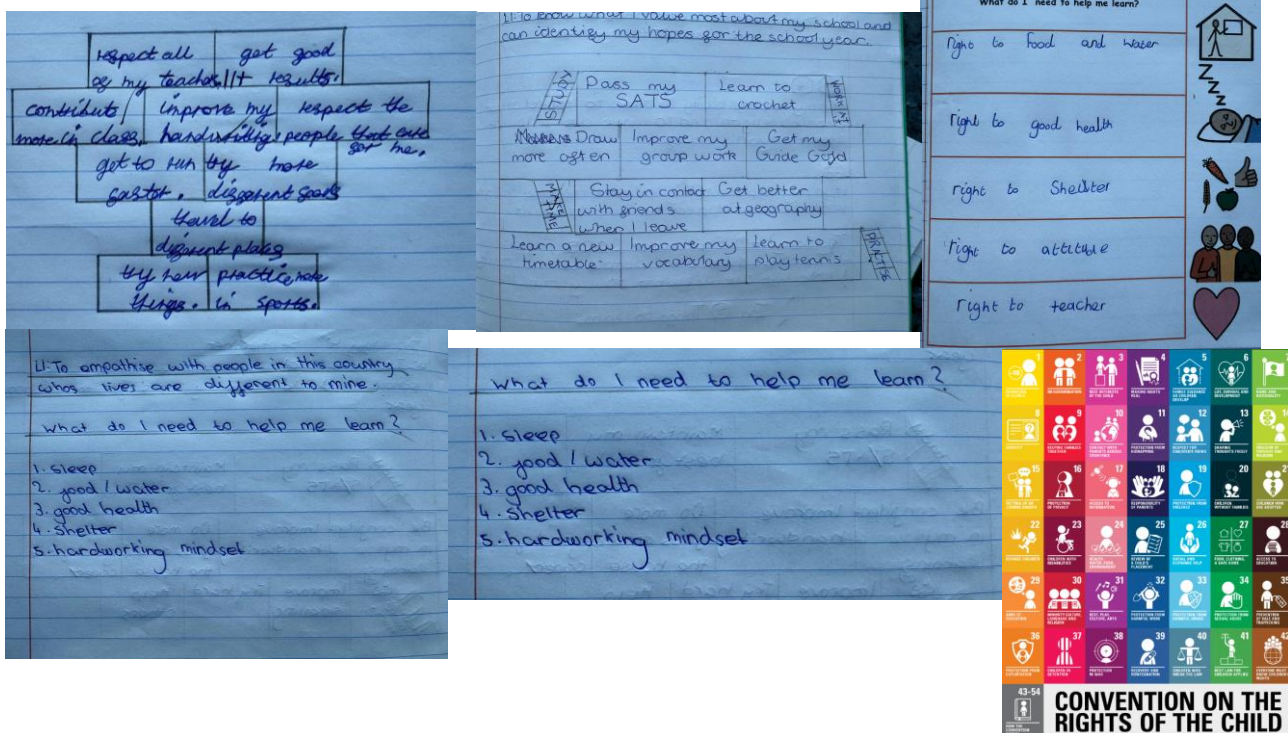
Our PE Days:

Maple - Tuesday and Friday

Oak - Monday and Thursday

Willow - Monday and Thursday

All children are to come into school wearing their PE kit on these days.



Reflections this week...

This week we have been thinking about how we want this year to look at High Ash. How we would like everyone to enjoy coming to school and making the most of the opportunities on offer. We also discussed first impressions and how it is important to consider our behaviours when starting a new class and a new year. We went on to look at Proverbs 20:11 *Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.*

Attendance...

Please consider the impact of your child not attending school. There is lots of evidence that children who attend less than 96% are disadvantaged compared to their peers who have an attendance of 96% or above. If your child has an attendance record of 90% that is the equivalent of them missing 20 days of school. When you get to the 85% attendance your child has missed 29 days in school. This is an awful lot of learning to be missed and I am sure as a parent you do not want to disadvantage your child. Please do send your child in every day, think carefully about booking holidays in term time and if they are ill - could they still soldier on and come into school? We will always ring you if your child is unwell and really isn't well enough to be here. As always, I appreciate your support with this.

Have a great weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger

Headteacher

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