



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12th September 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

It is hard to believe we have only been back at school a week and a day! There has been a lot going on around the school and it has been lovely to welcome our new Acorns into High Ash. They are doing so well and have completed their first full week of school. The rest of the school have been working really hard and are working hard to reach the high expectations their teachers have set for them.

Communication...

We are going to be trying hard to streamline our communication to you so that you are not bombarded through the week with texts, emails and MCAS notifications. Instead we will be trying to put all the information in the newsletter which is sent out on a Friday so you can look back if you want to see what is coming up. So not only will the newsletter be about what your child has been doing in school yet it will also be what is coming up and requests if your child needs to be sent into school with something specific.

Macmillan Coffee Event...

We would like to invite you all to our Macmillan Coffee Event which will take place on **Friday 26th September from 2pm**. We will be appreciative of any donations of cakes to have at our event. Parents, grandparents and members of the community are invited to come. Please do come, the whole school community is invited. This will take place in the hall. Please see below the timetable of when parents are invited to join us with the children:

2.00pm - Year 5/6 parents

2.20pm - Year 3/4 parents

2.40pm - Year 1/2 parents

3.00pm - Year R Acorn Parents

We are asking for a donation so the children have been asked to bring in some pennies to buy a cake. As Tesco says 'Every little helps!' You are welcome to come for the whole afternoon or just part of it.

Drinks will be available for adults and the children will bring their water bottles with them. If you are able to provide cakes, **please can you send these into school on Friday 26th in the morning**. I look forward to seeing you there, raising money for a fabulous charity whilst having a good natter and enjoying delicious cakes.

Applying for Secondary School place for September 2026...

If you live in Buckinghamshire, you can apply for a secondary school place between 4 September 2025 and 31 October 2025.

There is a separate application if you want to [change school and apply during this academic year](#). Buckinghamshire has both upper (all-ability) schools and grammar schools.

Key secondary school admission dates

Date	Event
4 September 2025	Online applications open
10 October 2025	Secondary Transfer Test results day (if the test was taken by 12 September)
31 October 2025	Deadline to submit your child's application
2 March 2026	National school offer day

New Parents...

You will have received a message via MCAS this week asking you to complete and submit a Photo Consent form and a Medical Consent/Emergency Contact form Off-site visits. Please click on the links below if you have not yet submitted these:

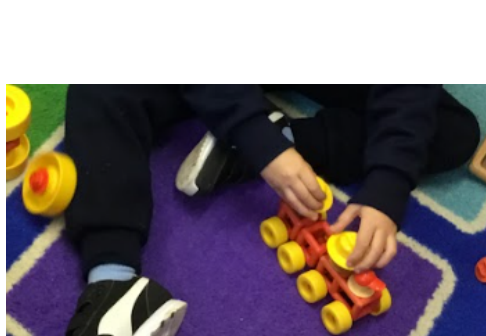
Photo Consent <https://forms.gle/79Es6nhGYQngfcLG6>

Medical Consent/Emergency Contact for Off-site visits - <https://forms.gle/2YMbf1ygYhgFqioA6>

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns

Wow! That week went super quick! We are so proud of our Acorns who have had so much to learn this week. The children have been learning each other's names, making new friends and finding their way around our classroom and outdoor provision. They have completed their first phonics lessons, learning to sit on their pebble spaces on the carpet, team stop signal and the stand and choose hand sign instructions as well as identify the phonics card pictures in preparation to start learning sounds next week. They have successfully learned how to get ready for lunch, how to stand in our line and show our bands and collect and eat our dinner in the Ash tree. They have learned to clear their own plates, cups and cutlery too. It has been wonderful to see children calming and coming in more confidently each day. Thank you for all your support in helping us to settle the children and have a really successful first full week.



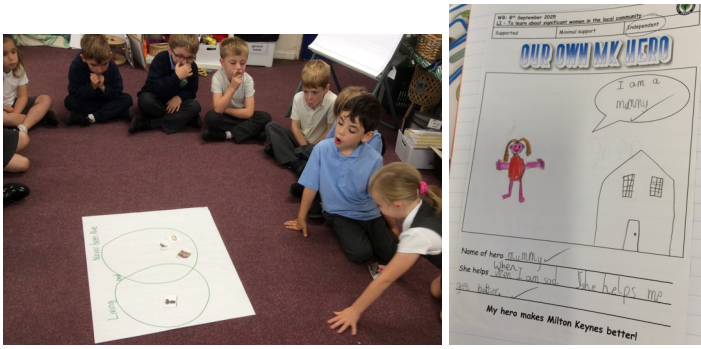
Acorn Reminders

- Our PE days are Thursday and Friday, so please send your child to school dressed for PE on those days.
- Home reading books are changed every Monday and Library books will be changed every Tuesday.
- If you have any messages for us, please write them in the notes part of the diary, they are checked daily.

Year One and Two

A week full of learning in Key Stage One and we all continue to be impressed with the children's enthusiasm and contributions in lessons. We started our History topic with a lesson about Significant Figures in Milton Keynes History. We learnt about special women who have had a huge impact on our local community such as Dr Marjorie Reid who founded Willen Hospice and Margeret Durbridge OBE who designed and developed the 'Redways' pedestrian and cycle paths that cross Milton Keynes. The children went on to write about their own local heroes. Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos for our History lessons next week when we will be studying our own timelines. If you have not done so already, please send in a recent photo of your child as well as one of them as a baby and a toddler.

In Science, the children have been thinking about the characteristics of living things and we had some fascinating scientific enquiries as to whether a newspaper was 'dead' or had never been a living thing!



Year 1 have enjoyed working to match numbers to leaves and acorns in our Outdoor Classroom and some Year 2 children designed and built a submarine in the construction area! We will always attempt to spend as much time in our Outdoor Classroom as possible, so please ensure that your child comes to school with a waterproof, hooded coat everyday.



In D&T we have started our Finger Puppet project and the children have explored various joining techniques, taking special care when pinning felt with safety pins... we can't wait to see how our Alien Puppets turn out!



In Apple Class, the children have been learning numbers to 10 through a range of engaging activities. They have been developing their subitising skills, recognising numerals and matching them to quantities, and practising ordering numbers from 0-10.

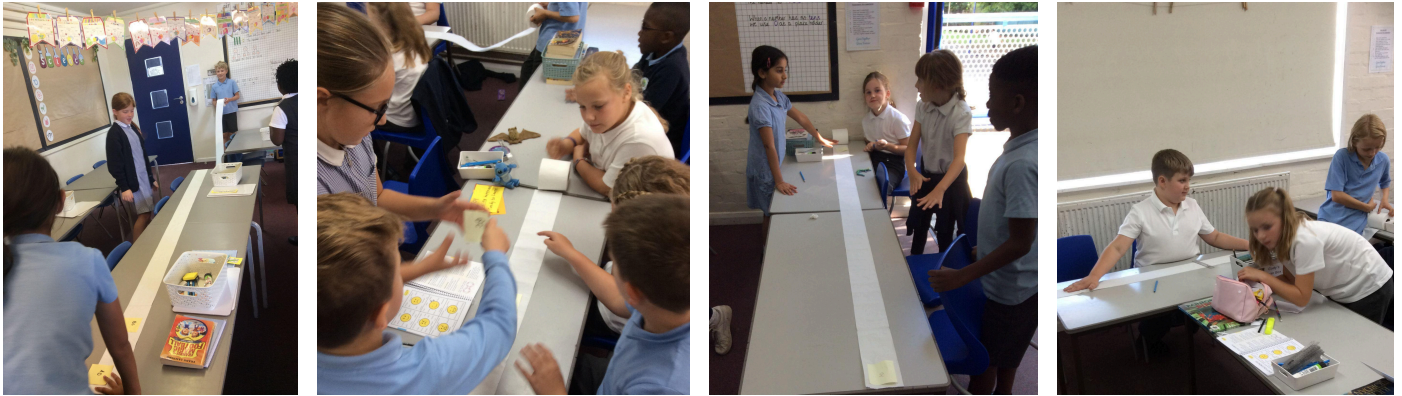


Year 1/2 Reminders

- Please send in wallet sized photos of your child as a baby, toddler and a current one ready for our History timeline lesson.

Year Three and Four

In History, the children began their new topic 'Would you prefer to have lived in the Stone, Bronze or Iron Age?'. They began by exploring timelines and learning about chronological order, including just how far back prehistory started. To help them understand this, they used a toilet roll to demonstrate the vast stretch of time, which really brought the concept to life! They also learned about AD and BC and enjoyed placing different events in the correct order on their timelines. To deepen their understanding about the prehistoric periods we are also reading 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King for both our Guided Reading and Class Novel. *You are welcome to purchase your own copy of this and bring it into school daily for our reading lessons if you wish.*



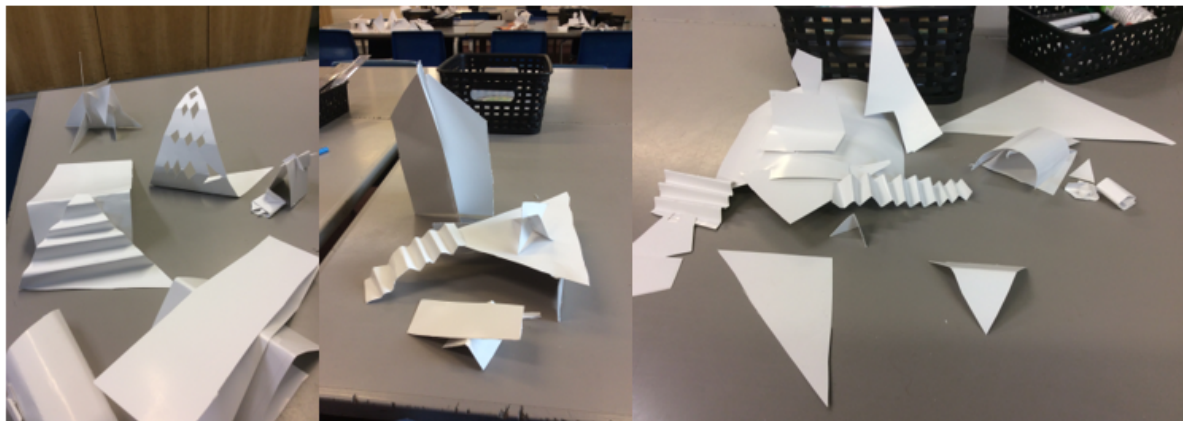
Our Science unit is all about classifying living things by looking at similar and different features. Today we started by looking at what headings we could create to classify different types of animals. We decided on a few headings and created different groups. Some animals were classified into more than one group!



Computing this half term is all about animation - how to make it, how to sequence and how to add sounds/movement. To create our animations, we are using scratch. Our first lesson involved learning how to use scratch, adding and deleting sprites, creating movement for our sprites and adding in sound once the movement had been created. We have some excellent coders at High Ash!



In Art, we created 3D models using card to design sculptures, inspired by playground equipment. We weren't allowed to use glue! We folded (consonina) and cut slots/slits carefully to make our creations which are impressive...



Y3/4 Home Learning...

Your child will have been notified of their home learning grid. This has been uploaded to google classrooms and will be attached with this newsletter so you can either print it off or save it for whenever you need it. We are now moving towards an online approach so Homework will be set and submitted via google classroom. However if you wish to bring in paper copies at the end of the half term you can continue to do so. These tasks can be completed however you and your child would like to complete them. The creativity in the past has been fantastic - we can't wait to see what you can come up with!

We will again be showing them all off when we come back to school in November after the October Half Term.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher.

Year 3/4 Reminders:

- A quick reminder that swimming starts next week on **Tuesday 16th**. Please arrive in school promptly and send your child in with their swim costume (girls in one piece), towel, goggles and swim hat (if they need one). We do require medical consent to be given should your child require it when attending off-site school visits. **Therefore, if you have not yet done this, please complete a google form by clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/pA4RGwTuV7TkT5ai9>.**
- Please continue to bring in any junk modelling that you find at home - recycling or old boxes etc. This would be incredibly useful for our Art unit this term.

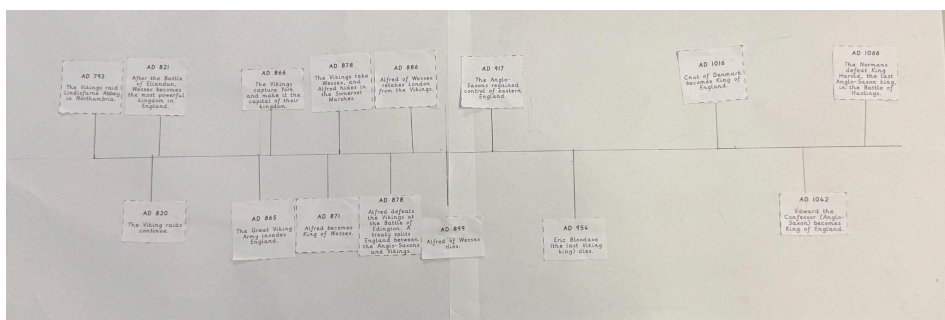
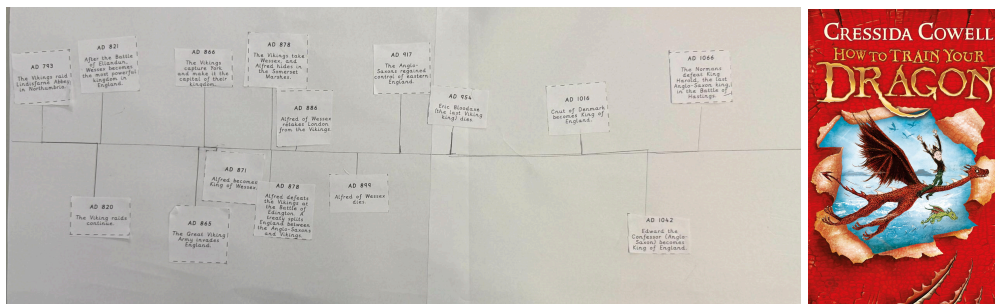
Year Five and Six

This week has seen many of our Year 6s complete their Secondary School Transfer tests. We are immensely proud of their work ethic and behaviour in test conditions. Well done for all of your hard work! In addition, well done to the Year 5s and other members of Year 6 who patiently completed work in the Ash Tree whilst the tests were happening - we are very grateful for your respectful behaviour.

We have started our hockey unit this week, (Mrs Derham's favourite!) and began with rehearsing how to hold the stick. We applied this to a dribbling drill which involved dribbling the ball around a circle, which was harder than it sounds! There were a few traffic jams and some collisions but once we gained the right technique, we were onto a winner and applied it to a possession game.



In history, we have started our fantastic unit all about the Vikings in Britain. We created a timeline which was to scale, highlighting the key events of the era in British history. It was challenging to ensure that we placed the dates in the right spaces, as it involved working out how many years difference between the events and using the correct scale. We created some excellent timelines with real accuracy. We are supplementing our history learning with our guided reading text: *How to Train Your Dragon* (Cressida Cowell). *You are welcome to purchase your own copy of this and bring it into school daily for our reading lessons if you wish.*



We appointed our new play leaders. They make such a positive impact on playtimes and, with their training from Mrs Stanley, have a wealth of knowledge about how to hold restorative conversations and lead exciting games.



Year 5/6 Reminders:

- Year 5 and 6 girls football training (open to all): Wednesday lunchtimes
- Year 6 mixed football training (open to all): Thursday lunchtimes
- Year 6 residential meeting (for those who are attending the residential this year) - Thursday 18th at 6pm

House Captains

Congratulations to our new house captains for the academic year 2025/26. We are looking forward to seeing what they are able to bring to their role this year!



Reflections this week...

In reflections this week, we talked about how we make people feel welcome both at school and at home. The children had great ideas such as including them in a game, asking someone what they would like to play, listening to what other people have to say, asking questions about people's interests, offering people drinks or special foods. We then read the story Everyone is Welcome! We linked the story to the Bible reading, from Mark 10:14: Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Discussing how Christians understand that God wants to share his kingdom with everyone and it is their job to help make that happen.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 97%. Thank you for your continued support with ensuring your child attends school every day when possible. If your child is going to be absent from school, we ask you to please always email absence@highashschool.co.uk and confirm the reason for your child's absence.

Diary Dates...

Tuesday 16th September - Y3-4 Swimming Lessons

Wednesday 17th September - SEND Parents Tea and Cake Event at 2.45-3.20pm

Thursday 18th September - Y6 Residential Parent's Meeting at 6.00pm

Friday 19th September - KS1 Star Assembly (Invitation only) at 2.55pm, doors open 2.45pm

Friday 19th September - HASA Treat Friday at end of the day on KS1 Playground

Our local Churches...

Our three local churches are all celebrating their harvest festivals over the coming weeks. The dates and times are below. All High Ash families are invited to attend.

Sunday 14th September:

Great Brickhill:- Harvest All-age service at 4pm followed by tea and cake

Sunday 28th September:

Stoke Hammond:- 9.30 Harvest Holy Communion

Little Brickhill:- 11.00 Harvest Family Service

Have a great weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger

Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk

**St Mary-the-Virgin Church,
Great Brickhill**



ALL-AGE SERVICE

**THIS SUNDAY
at 4pm followed by**

TEA AND CAKE

**All ages welcome, do come and join
us for this service of thanksgiving**

**Enjoy tea and cake and a
chat after the service**

**Harvest gifts suitable for our Food Box
will be gratefully received - tins of fruit,
vegetables, soup, meat/vegetarian meals**

**Harvest gifts can be left inside the
church at the base of the font**