



# High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 17th October 2025

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



## Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We have had a great week. It was lovely to see all the children after my week on the Year 6 residential, which was amazing! This week we welcomed prospective parents into school, celebrated our Harvest Festival and then yesterday we had Pete Dunmall, our external School Improvement Advisor, in. His visits are always beneficial to verify the improvements we have made and to support us to clarify and focus on our next development points. Pete was impressed with the children's learning behaviours - how all the children were focused and engaged on their learning and the teacher's pedagogy when teaching the children. I am very proud of how far we have come since our last Ofsted and have to thank the hard work of all the staff to ensure that your children are receiving the very best education.

### *Staffing update...*

We are delighted to share some lovely news with you. Both Mrs Derham and Mrs Weatherall are expecting babies! Both teachers plan to teach until Easter so I will be busy recruiting maternity cover teachers next half term and will keep you updated when I have more information to share.

### *PARENTS' CONSULTATIONS*

We are looking forward to meeting all parents next week on **Tuesday 21st October 2pm-6pm** or **Wednesday 22nd October 4.30-7.30pm**. **The online bookings are now closed.** If you have not managed to book your appointment but would like to, we ask that you contact the office so we can book you into the next available time slot on these days.

### *Secondary School Applications - deadline 31st October*

You have until **midnight on 31st October** to make your secondary school application. Please apply via the following website if you live in Buckinghamshire - [Guide to moving up to secondary school | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

These pages include lots of important information, including:

- how to get the order of their preferences right
- How BC allocate school places
- what to do if you are moving house

Meeting the preference deadline is extremely important and can be the difference between a child being offered a place at a preferred or not.

### *Art Clubs Years 1-6 - Autumn Term 2...*

Art club for the 2nd half of this term will be available **to book online tonight from 7pm**. Please see the attached flyer for details and how to book.

If your child already attends this club and you would like them to continue, you must re-book.

**Spaces are limited**, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Thank you.

## HASA Disco...

Just to remind you that HASA will be holding a school Disco on Thursday 13th November:

F/KS1 - 3.30-4.30pm

KS2 -4.45-5.45pm

Spaces are limited, so please do not hesitate to book your child a space at the school disco. Please book via your MCAS app selecting 'Products'.



## Poppy Appeal...

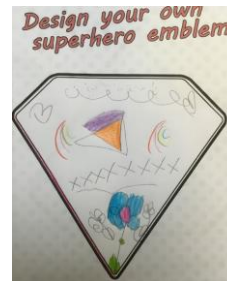
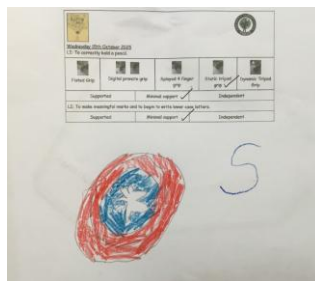
Poppy Appeal merchandise will be on sale in the playground on Friday 24th October and Friday 7th November at the HASA Treat Friday stall.

Please note that cash will be required to purchase items from the Poppy Appeal merchandise box. Thank you for your support.

## Learning highlights this week....

### Acorns

Acorn class has had a SUPER week using our story of the week 'Super Duper You' and exploring what makes us special, what our talents are and how we are all unique. We have talked about what makes someone a hero, making links to our religious learning about role models like Moses for Jewish people and Jesus for Christian people. We also talked about how heroes behave, how they work in teams, listen to each other, take turns, own their choices and understand the feelings of others. We linked this work to our PROUD principles that we have in school.



The children dressed up as super heroes and created super hero plans on how to save citizens in jeopardy. The children created their own super hero emblems, using their tripod grip, choosing colours that they felt represented them and using an initial sound to describe themselves on their emblem such as 'f' for funny or 'b' for brave.

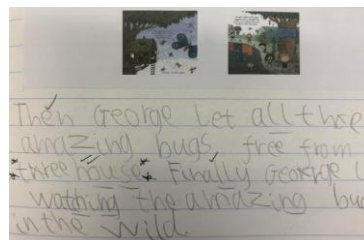
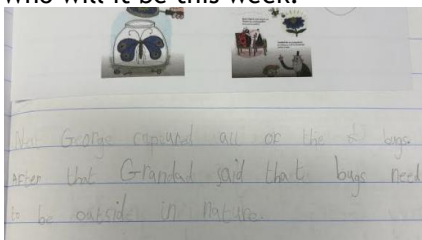
The children also had a wonderful time in Forest school this week! We were amazed at how much more autumnal our space is becoming. There was a carpet of leaves in our area on the floor! We talked about how it was the deciduous trees that had dropped their leaves and that the evergreen plants in our area such as the holly had not and would not change. The children enjoyed making superhero leaf crowns, they learned how to use a stapler. They had help measuring their crown to ensure it fit, they then used the stapler to fix the crown in place. The children then explored using glue, the stapler and sellotape to determine which was best for attaching the leaves. It was lots of fun!

### Acorn Reminders

- Next week we will be exploring the story 'Real superheroes'. This is a book about the real life superheroes in the world such as firefighters, doctors and police officers. You could begin by talking to your child about who they think are real life heroes in our world. Who really does save lives and make a difference?

### Year One and Two

We were so proud of all of our Key Stage 1 children as they joined the rest of the school to celebrate the Harvest Festival at our church on Wednesday. They certainly did let their light shine and we secretly think that they were the loudest singers! Our science topic of Living Things and their habitats has been reflected in our English learning this week with another lovely text to study. The Bug Collector by Alex G Griffiths has really made the children think about how we can explore our world with respect and care and we are already seeing some fabulously clever writing with exclamation sentences from Year 2 and time word sentence openers in Year 1. Congratulations to last week's STAR writers Georgina, Evie and Darwin. Who will it be this week?



In RE we are coming to the end of our unit about the stories Jesus told about kindness. The children have been retelling the story of Zacheus the Tax Collector and discussing how important it is to show kindness and love to everyone.

Despite the weather, our outdoor classroom is as popular as ever. This week Mrs Fox has set up a beautiful transient art activity and the children are creating fabulous minibeasts with a selection of natural materials. The activity is perfect for developing creativity, oracy and numeracy as the children discuss how many wings, antennae and legs they are adding to their creations!



Thank you to everyone who came to support Chestnut Class in their Assembly today. Mrs Barrasford has been so impressed with everyone's determination to learn lines and songs. We really do appreciate your support.

### Year Three and Four

This week in Science, we have been understanding and learning about the different dangers that are posed to animals when the environment changes. To learn more about this, we used the chrome books to research what changes are happening to our chosen environment, what effects this is having on the animals and how we as humans can help reduce this.



On Wednesday, we all went to the church to celebrate Harvest. Year 3/4 led the service beautifully by telling stories and sharing prayers. Thank you for all the hard work you put in with your child to learn their lines so well. We are very proud of them.

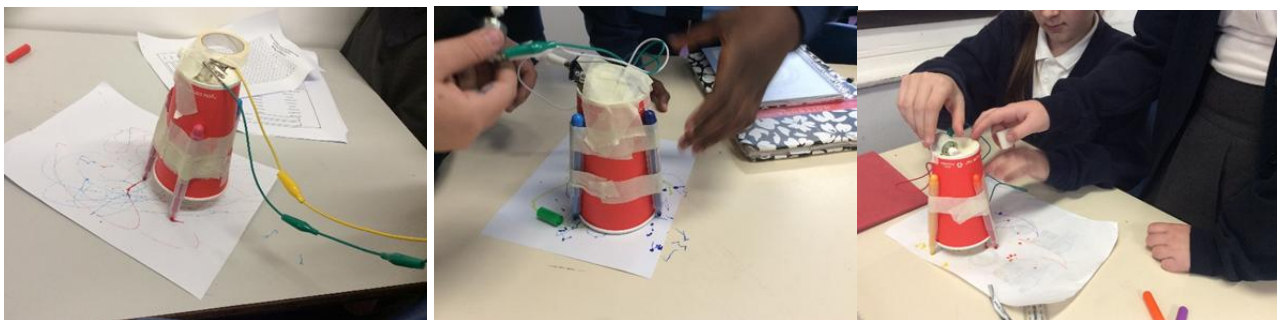
In music, we have been learning all about ballads. This week we created our own verses to match the story 'Soar.' To do this, each group was given a section of the short film and asked to write 4 lines describing it. Two of the lines had to rhyme. As we had already created the chorus, it was no small task to put the verses together and match it to an already established backing track.

In Art, we used our plans as well as inspiration from abstract sculptures and the shapes within playground equipment to produce our own models in groups. We incorporated the skills of folding, slopping pieces together, twisting and using tabs to make parts of our structures stand. We used various materials and very limited glue to hold things together. There were some very creative and unique ideas including plaiting art straws!



**Year Five and Six**

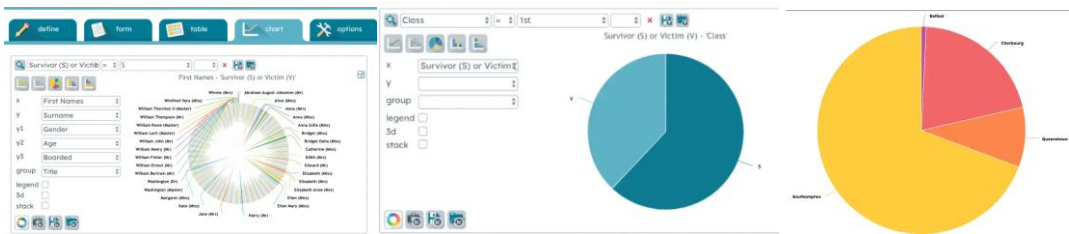
Using our knowledge of circuits, we created ScribbleBots this week. By attaching pens to the outside of a cup with tape and creating a vibrating motion with a motor, the ScribbleBots made quite the mark on the paper! We then drew and labelled our circuits, using the correct scientific vocabulary and diagrams.



In Mrs Derham's Maths we quickly recognised that we needed a lot of cubes to make a cube number yet used our mathematical skills to quickly progress to applying the physical representation to a mathematical calculation.



In our computing lessons, we have been studying flat-file databases. This week, we learned how to use graphs to visually analyse data according to our chosen fields. At first, some of our graphs were a little confusing (as you can see below). Soon though, we clarified exactly the information we wished to include on the x and y axes, which helped us to answer questions such as: ‘What was the proportion of genders in first class? Or ‘What was the survivor to victim ratio in first class?’ or ‘a pie chart to show where people boarded the Titanic.’



Last week, many of our Year 6 children went on our residential trip to Culmington Manor in Shropshire and we had a blast! We were up from 7am, getting ready for our day filled with activities. The sessions ranged from bouldering to abseiling, kayaking to orienteering. A favourite for many (including the staff) was the hill walk, where we crossed rivers and scrambled up the hill sides of Carding Mill Valley.

I really enjoyed it and thought all the activities were great fun especially the obstacle course. I think they did a great job and I loved every minute.

I loved all the activities and would definitely do it again! *Christopher*

I really enjoyed it. All the staff were so interactive with us and they made us laugh and we could rename them and the food was really good and the cleaner made us laugh as well. *Mathilda*

I enjoyed it and I thought the activities were very interesting. *Divine*

I liked all the activities and everything was perfect! *Theo*

I liked the underground maze and the kayaking. *Leo C*



### Year 5/6 Reminders:

- If you have any lost property left from the residential, please collect by the end of half term, as they will be thrown away or donated. We still have towels, pillows and other items which you could be missing!
- Please let us know if you are missing a black Regatta coat with a red zip, as this has mistakenly been taken home by a student.

### Football Match Report...

#### **Match Report: High Ash vs Cheddington (Tue 14 Oct) - First Game for Our Combined Team**

Excitement filled the air as our newly combined team took to the pitch for their very first match. The sidelines buzzed with support from parents and siblings, ready to cheer the team on.

High Ash started strong with an early run, but Cheddington quickly countered, pushing the ball all the way to Seb, our goalkeeper. Seb bravely came out to meet the attacker and, with support from Azalea, successfully prevented an early goal.

Momentum shifted as High Ash surged forward. A clever chip from Noah across the goal created a promising opportunity, but unfortunately, it didn't connect with our players and went out of play. Darragh stood firm in defence as Cheddington applied pressure. Despite our efforts, Cheddington broke through and scored the first goal of the match.

High Ash responded with determination. Leo and Noah worked well together to create a chance to equalise, but their shot was saved. Cali dazzled with some fancy footwork, supported by Harry, creating another opportunity—again, Cheddington's defence held strong.

A High Ash attack led to a free kick awarded to Cheddington just outside our box. Seb saved the initial shot, but the rebound found its way in, putting us 2-0 down.

At half-time, Mrs D. delivered an inspiring pep talk. Cheddington must have had one too, as they came out in the second half with renewed energy. Seb was outstanding in goal, making multiple saves with solid support from our defenders.

Darragh nearly scored with a brilliant free kick that just missed the target, another attempt hit the side netting, and tensions were high. High Ash showed great teamwork and determination. A high ball into the box saw Will and Christian battling in the thick of it, but the opposition managed to clear it.

As the final whistle approached, Cheddington launched one last attack. A scramble near our goal line left the net exposed—Darragh heroically cleared the ball off the line, but Cheddington came back and scored a third just before the whistle. Final score: 3-0 to Cheddington.

It wasn't the result we hoped for, but the team played with heart, teamwork, and sportsmanship. For our first game together, there's so much to be proud of. Well done, team!

**By Noah H**

On Tuesday 13th October, the year 6 mixed team played Cheddington primary school. Playing, we had Sebastian.B in goal. In defence, we had Christian, Azalea and Darragh. On the attack we had Harry, Noah, Leo.C (captain), William and Cali.C. We put up a fight in the first half, trying our best to score. Unluckily, the opposition had scored twice! After the half time whistle blew, we had a team talk that encouraged us to play our best no matter what the score. High Ash came out into the second half looking very strong. However, we let a goal slip in and they made it 3:0. Towards the end of the game, we put in 110% and ran up the field. Cali drove the ball up the field and fired the ball into the box. We were SO close to scoring but the ball dragged itself wide of the post. As the full time whistle blew, we congratulated ourselves and the opposing team. At the end of the competitive game, we gave our player of the game to number 15, who showed some great play and sportsmanship. They gave our player of the game to number 8, which was Cali. We are so happy with how we played and hope we will continue to play like we did on Tuesday!

**By Cali and Azalea**



### Star Writers

We had some absolutely fantastic star writers this week! It was wonderful to see the beautiful handwriting across the school and so many skills being used throughout. Well done to all. Noah, Cleo and Ralph were the Year 5 star writers this week.



### Reflections this week...

This week, our question was ***Do you have the courage to speak up and include others?***

We read a lovely book called 'Mixed' about how much happier life is when we mix and don't segregate ourselves. We also had a fantastic Harvest Festival at St Mary's led by our Year 3 and 4 children. It was great to see so many parents and carers join us for this thanks giving worship.

### Reflections next week...

During assembly on Monday 21st October we will be talking to the children about how to keep themselves safe. The assembly aims to give children:

- An understanding of different forms of abuse, including bullying,
- An ability to recognise the signs of harm or abuse,
- Knowledge of how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse,
- An awareness of how to get help and sources of help, including Childline.

The assembly will be led by myself and the content delivered in a sensitive and age appropriate way. A copy of the slides we'll be using for the assembly is available on the website:

<https://www.highashschool.co.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=28>

If you'd like further information you may wish to view additional materials from the NSPCC:

- NSPCC, information for parents - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>
- Video link, to NSPCC Pantosauraus campaign <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Through our curriculum, including assemblies like those next week, we teach children to stay safe and happy. We encourage the understanding that any problem or worry they may have is legitimate, and to share their worries, big or small with a trusted adult; at home; school or with an organisation like Childline.

### ***Buckinghamshire Children's Choir...***

Children in school Years 4-8 are invited to join Bucks Children's Choir over the half term. This is an amazing opportunity for children in the north of the county to come together in half term to share the love of singing. The choir will run on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October in Buckingham. They would love to have as many young people there as possible. Please see the attached flyer.

### ***Brickhill Bistro...***

Brickhill Bistro have organised a Harry Potter afternoon tea which is available at 3.00 pm from 25th October to 2nd November at 3.00 pm, and is priced at £12.00 for children and £15.00 for adults. Please see the attached flyer for full information.

### ***MHST - Parent webinar leaflet...***

Following the success of last year's series of parent information webinars, they are pleased to offer this again. Please find attached the leaflet for the first half of the events and there are further topics scheduled from January 2026.

### ***Parking***

After an incident outside the school gates earlier in the week we have started placing traffic cones again on the junction of Rotten Row and Green End. Many parents have told us they think this has helped manage parking and relieve congestion, so thank you to everyone who has been supporting us with this.

We ask everyone to drive carefully through the village, not block driveways, and park at the Parish Hall and walk up to school. Sadly, we see many cases of people driving too fast, not showing due consideration and being rude and abusive to other drivers. This reflects badly on the school, is not the sort of behaviour we should be modelling to our children and is simply offensive to others. We understand that morning drop off can be busy and people need to get to work on time but please don't let your children down by setting them the wrong example.



### ***Access to the Staff Car Park***

Please remember the staff car park should not be used by parents unless you have been given permission to do so. The car park is very busy in the morning with staff arriving and deliveries coming into school.

Parents dropping off at Breakfast Club should park outside school and walk the children to Breakfast Club. Similarly, parents should not drive into the car park just because they are running late for school. We are seeing many parents driving into school and pulling on to the footpath while they drop off their children. This is unsafe as it means other pedestrians have to walk into the road to avoid the obstruction.

Parents are only allowed to access the staff car park after 4.30pm when picking up their children from Wraparound.

We don't have much space in our staff car park and we are just trying to keep people safe and avoid accidents caused by too much traffic coming into the car park.

### ***Attendance...***

This week our attendance is 95.3%. Please ensure you always email [absence@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:absence@highashschool.co.uk) for every day your child is absent from school.

### ***Diary Dates for w-c 20th October...***

Tuesday 21st October - Year 3/4 Swimming

Tuesday 21st October, 2.00-6.00pm - Parent Consultations

Wednesday 22nd October, 4.30-7.30pm - Parent Consultations

Friday 24th October, 2.55pm - KS1 Star Assembly, doors open at 2.45pm (Invitation Only)

Friday 24th October, 3.30-4.15pm - Invited Year 6 Girls Cup Fixture v Newton Longville (Home)

**Monday 27th-Friday 31st October - HALF TERM**

Have a great weekend.

*Kate Goodger*

Mrs. Kate Goodger  
Headteacher

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