



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 24th October 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

It's hard to believe that this is the first half term completed! Well done to our youngest children who have settled brilliantly into High Ash and are impressing us all with the work they are producing. It has been lovely to see you all in school for the Parent Teacher consultations. The children are working so hard and I saw many children desperate to share with you the fantastic work they are producing. This week has seen us have our Local Authority Leadership Champion in who was impressed with the children's learning and their behaviour and we have also had our Mastery Maths Lead teacher in - helping us to evaluate what we need to do next. Both visitors have seen how the school has improved in the last 22 months and are impressed with the journey we have been on and how we have made such rapid progress. I am a very proud headteacher, well done and thank you for the hard work from all the staff and the children and of course all the support we receive from all of you.

World Food Day...

It was World Food day in the Ash Tree kitchen on Thursday. Michelle, Lizzie and Vikki worked really hard on some new dishes, using a family recipe for Jollof rice from two of our children. We enjoyed Chicken Shawarma, Jollof Rice, and Spanish Tortilla, followed by Orange and Cardamom Cookies



We wanted to make our menu a bit more diverse to both reflect the backgrounds of all our pupils as well as give the children a chance to try new foods they may not eat at home. Michelle received lots of compliments and the children really enjoyed the food. One of the children said they were delighted to see rice from Africa on the menu and another said they recognised the taste of cardamom in the biscuits from the Indian food they eat at home. There will

be another World Food Day in the Spring term and look out for some Christmas treats from different countries served for desserts later in December.

The menu for next half term will be available to book from the 1st November. Please remember to book the day before via MCAS.

Christmas at Waddesdon Manor...

Once again, our children took part in The Waddesdon Manor Schools Christmas Exhibition. You can view the children's artwork down at the stables in their Coachhouse exhibition space.

As a thank you to our children taking part in their Winter Light Display, 'Sounds of the Season', they are offering each child a unique, single-use code to use on their website to obtain tickets. Please read the attached document with guidance on how to book and note the following:

- Your code gives you a free child grounds ticket, and half price grounds entry for 2 accompanying adults and 2 extra children (there are ticket options for both members and non-members).
- The code will not work when trying to book the house, as it is a grounds-only offer. However, if you would like to also book the house, you can add this, as well as shuttle bus tickets, afternoon teas, premium parking, and guide books to your booking.

Please only use the website below to book tickets. Codes will not work if you use any other link to book tickets:
<https://waddesdon.org.uk/whats-on/christmas/>

If you are interested in booking, please email the office asking for your unique code per child. **Online bookings are live.** However, please note the office will be closed over the half term and will re-open when we return to school on Monday 3rd November at 8am. Therefore, please do not expect a response to your email over the half term period.

Art Clubs Years 1-6 (Wednesday and Friday) - Autumn Term 2...

Art club for the 2nd half of this term is now available to **book online NOW**. 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.



Poppy Appeal...

Poppy Appeal merchandise will be on sale in the playground today, **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

Acorns learned all about real superheroes this week! We celebrated our key workers such as firefighters, police officers and paramedics. We talked about what real super heroes do and how we could grow up to be a real superhero one day. We then added clothing and equipment to our roleplay so that the children could dress up as real superheroes if they chose to. We also talked about our own superheroes in our lives, our special grown ups at home! We even had some photos and a helmet from Frankie's parents who are firefighters.



The children were inspired by all of the real superheroes we spoke about and were able to choose a hero and draw them out using their improving pencil grips. They also drew some of the equipment of vehicles that they use. The children were then able to write the initial sound such as 'f' for firefighter or 'p' for police officer.

Acorn Reminders

- After half term we will be moving on to our next topic of 'Let's Celebrate!' which is all about celebrations where we will learn about Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance and Christmas. We will start with the story 'Little Glow'. You could talk to your child about what you celebrate in your family ready for them to share after half term.
- In class, we have taught all of the RWI set 1 single sounds this term. You can use the sent out QR codes to review any sounds your child is unsure of over half term.

Year One and Two

Year 1 and 2 absolutely loved their visit from Laurie Keck who came to school to share his work inspired by the stones and fossils he finds on beaches around the world. We were able to ask lots of questions and even had a go at making our own clay creations. Thank you to Miss Maylor for organising the visit and really bringing art to life!



Our Science unit has come to an end with the children playing games to create their own food chains, we loved going round the room and deciding whether we would eat or be eaten by our friends! The children researched various animals and then created their own food chains.

In English we have been writing a non-fiction recount and our inspiration text has been 'Little People, Big Dreams - Charles Darwin'. It has been so lovely to see the children relating their own knowledge of adaptation and evolution to the life of Darwin. Congratulations to Dominique, Marcie, Luca and Danylo who were last week's clever writers.

In DT we have been making some amazing finger puppets. The children worked so hard designing, joining and creating some wonderful puppets.



In our History lessons, we explored toys and household objects from the past. The children's eyes lit up as they discovered how a dial phone worked, turning the wheel with fascination and waiting for it to spin back! The old-fashioned prams were another delight, sparking giggles as they imagined babies being pushed in them. They had a wonderful time connecting with history, play, and imagination!



A huge thank you to Rory in Chestnut Class for sharing his passion for golf with his classmates. We loved hearing about all the different clubs and were so impressed with knowledge and enthusiasm!

Well done Key Stage 1 for a fabulous first half term, we are so proud of the way you have settled in and worked so hard - have a wonderful Half term holiday!

Year 1/2 Reminders

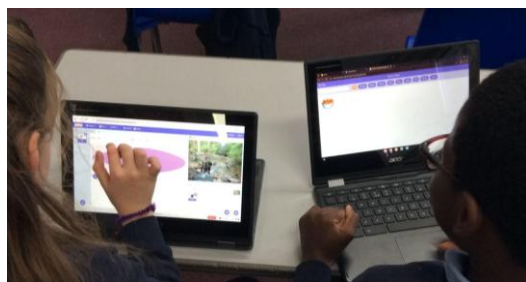
- Home learning will be shared during the first week back, so please ensure any completed work is handed in on Monday 3rd November.

Year Three and Four

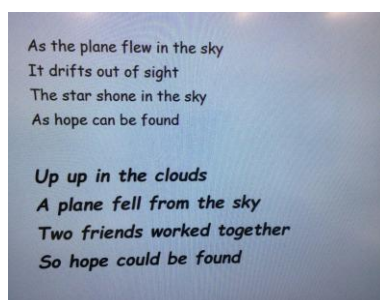
This week in Year 3/4 we had a very exciting visitor! Lindsay Neale from the Leighton Buzzard Art Society came to talk to us about sculpture and how she started creating. She showed us her papier mache sculptures first and smaller wire sculptures, explaining how to make them and what she used as inspiration. We looked at pictures and even got to hold and look at some of the smaller sculptures she has made out of wire. We had a wonderful time and are very inspired!



During our computing lesson we made instruments on scratch. To do this we had to pick a sprite and give it different costumes - 4 in total. We then attached an event and a sound to each sprite to create our musical instrument. The children were so creative and made some fantastic instruments!



In Music, we put together our learning in a final composition. We created lyrics based on a short film called 'Soaring'. We put those lyrics to a ballad melody and performed it as a whole class. We then created a storyboard to represent the story.



In Art this week, the children have been applying their knowledge of sculpture by evaluating their work and making thoughtful improvements. They decorated their sculptures by adding texture and colour, carefully considering how to enhance their designs. The children really enjoyed this creative process and took great pride in their finished pieces.



Here are some other examples inspired by the sculptor Anthony Caro.

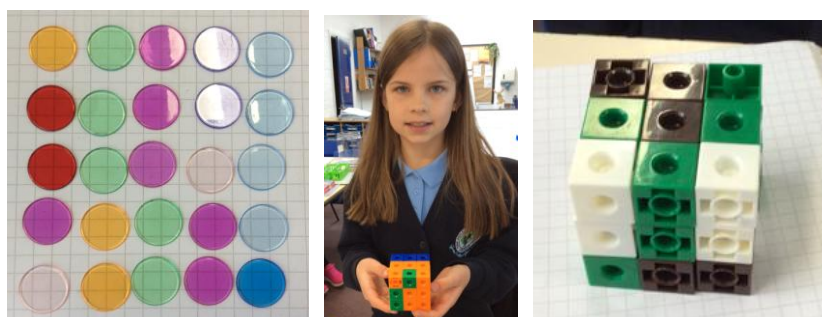


Year 3/4 Reminders

- Home learning will be shared during the first week back, so please ensure you have uploaded to Google Classroom or brought in paper copies by the end of Monday 3rd November.
- If you have purchased a copy of the class text this half term, 'Stig of the Dump', and your child has read it, we would really appreciate it if you could donate it to school so that we can use them next time we teach the unit.
- Our class text next term is 'Iron Man'. If you're able to, please feel free to buy this text so that your child will have their own copy for guided reading lessons.

Year Five and Six

This week in Mrs Gray's maths class, the children have progressed from understanding square numbers from using manipulatives to knowing that a square number is the product of a number multiplied by itself, e.g. 1, 4, 9, 16. First of all, we used counters to make square arrays like this before considering the Key Questions: • Why are square numbers called "square" numbers? • How do you work out ____squared? • How do you write ____squared? • Is 1 a square number? Why or why not?



Then we turned our attention to cube numbers. We built some in class and learned the sentence: The cube of a number is the result of multiplying the number by **itself** and then by **itself** again. We went on to consider questions about cubed number such as: • Why are cube numbers called "cube" numbers? • How do you work out cubed? • How do you write cubed? • Is 1 a cube number? Explain your answer. • Are the cubes of odd numbers even or odd? • Are the cubes of even numbers even or odd?

In Year 5/6, we have been continuing our exploration of street art. This half term, we have taken inspiration from street art in Milton Keynes, Stoke Hammond, Great Brickhill and Leighton Buzzard, as well as studying the work of renowned street artists such as Edgar Müller and Keith Haring. This week, we have been busy creating our final pieces. After carefully completing our designs, we scaled them up, paying close attention to proportion and perspective. We then brought our ideas to life using a variety of materials, including charcoal, watercolour, pencil, felt tip and oil pastels. We are incredibly proud of our creations and look forward to sharing them with you soon!



In English, we have completed our biographies about famous scientists, linking to our science topic. It has been wonderful to read the informative biographies of Nicola Tesla, Thomas Edison, Ada Lovelace and many others. We have used a variety of skills including brackets for parenthesis, relative clauses and made our writing more interesting through using subordinating conjunctions as sentence openers. We have, over the course of the past two weeks, completed our own research and applied this to the grammatical skills which have been combined to create our wonderful star writes.

Year 5/6 Reminders:

- Please can you provide any spare material for our DT project next half term, as we are creating waistcoats.
- If you have purchased a copy of the class text this half term, 'How to Train Your Dragon', and your child has read it, we would really appreciate it if you could donate it to school so that we can use them next time we teach the unit.
- Our class text for the next half term is 'The Star of Kazan' by Eva Ibbotson. If you're able to, please feel free to buy this text so that your child will have their own copy for guided reading lessons.

Year 6 Mixed Football Match Report

As we started the match, Swanbourne took the kick off. As they booted the ball up the pitch, it was blocked by Ruan. In the early stages of the game, Calum, our captain, took a kick in and Riley then volleyed it into the net to make it 1-0. After that goal, Swanbourne attacked back and scored a good goal by the keeper to make it 1-1.

A couple of minutes later, Calum dribbled through the defence and managed to score to make it 2-1. We got a kick in and Ethan managed to score but got denied by the ref as you can't score from kick ins. Then, they went on a good attack but they couldn't get past our defence and then a corner was given to us which was blocked and it fell out to Ru who volleyed it over the crossbar. We went into half time as Demi switched with Emilia in goal. Kick off started for the second half. Jax kicked the ball up the field to Seb who unfortunately couldn't get past the player so they won the ball back. A few minutes later, Riley got subbed on and we did a good tiki taka, using Cleo on the wing, to lead to a goal from Riley who went around the keeper and scored to make it 3-1. For the rest of the match we maintained possession from Calum and his successful dribbles to assist Riley for his third goal. Later on, they managed to score from an unfortunate misplaced ball by Demi. In the dying stages of the match, Swanbourne had a corner, the keeper went up in the box and the ball got booted out, then Riley chased after it and tried to shoot from far but got denied by the defender to end the game in a 4-2 win for High Ash.

By Riley



Star Writers

Well done to our star writers this week. In KS1, they have been challenging themselves to use different punctuation in their work, including '?' and '!'. They have worked incredibly hard and seeing the progress since September is remarkable! In Year 3/4, their Star Writes has been based on the beautiful book, 'The Proudest Blue'. In their Star Writes, it was excellent to read their varied sentence lengths and similes for description. Well done!



Fundraising for golf equipment...

Thank you to those parents who have already donated towards our golf equipment. We hope to introduce golf as a new activity for our children later this year. Golf is a fantastic sport that teaches patience, concentration, and coordination - and it can be enjoyed for a lifetime!

To make this possible, we are seeking support from our community to help us fund a set of beginner-friendly golf equipment. Use the link below to donate or email Mrs Northen at businessmanager@highashschool.co.uk for more information or if you think you can support us.

www.crowdfunder.co.uk/golf-equipment-1

Reflections this week...

This week we talked to the children about how to keep themselves safe. The assembly gave 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.

Through our curriculum, including assemblies like these, 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. All the children have learnt the Childline phone number 0800 1111.

Attendance...

This week our attendance is 91.4%. This makes us below the national average for attendance. While we understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable, it's important to remember that every single day in school makes a difference. When children miss school, they miss out—not just on lessons, but on valuable social interactions, routines, and opportunities to grow alongside their classmates. Over time, these gaps can add up, leaving them at a disadvantage compared to their peers. Please ensure you always email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school.

Diary dates w-c 3 November...

Half Term - Monday 27th - Friday 31st October (School closed)

Monday 3rd November - Autumn Term 2 begins - School re-opens

Tuesday 4th November - Year 3/4 continuing with swimming lessons. Please send your child to school with their swim kit and towel in a bag.

Tuesday 4th November, 3.30-4.30pm - Year 6 Girls Football Fixture v Whitchurch (Home) - By invitation only

Wednesday 5th November, 9.30-11.30am - Open Morning for new Reception parents September 2026

Friday 7th November, 2.55pm - F/KS1 Star Assembly, doors open at 2.45pm - Invitation only!

Thanks for all your support this half term. We all wish you a fabulous half term and look forward to seeing you on Monday 3rd November.

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger

Headteacher

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