



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 7th November 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

Welcome back to school! We have had a very busy week starting our new topics. On Wednesday, we welcomed Mr Pye, Head of Geography from the Cottesloe School to talk about Volcanoes to our Year 3 and 4 children - they learnt so much. We also held our open morning for the prospective parents for Reception 2026.

Starting School or Moving up to Junior School in September 2025...

All parents wanting a school place for their child in September 2026 must make an application by **15 January 2026**. Parents can apply online at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk from **5th November 2025**.

It is important that parents realise that even if their child already attends nursery at a school, or they already have other children at the school they still need to make an application. A late application can **seriously jeopardise** the chances of a child being offered a place at the preferred school.

Please view the attached 'Starting School' Leaflet for full information.

Anti-bullying week...

Next week is National Anti-bullying week. This year's theme is power for good. To raise the awareness of bullying and what to do if you are being bullied or see someone being bullied we will be focusing on this in our reflections.

We would like everyone to wear odd socks on Monday for anti-bullying week to celebrate that everyone is different and unique. The day's theme of wearing mismatched socks is a simple way to encourage acceptance of individuality, challenge stereotypes, and start important conversations about kindness, respect, and preventing bullying.

Individual and Sibling Photographs...

All children will have their **individual and sibling photographs** taken in school on the morning of **Wednesday 12th November**.

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their **full school uniform**, including their **school logo jumper or cardigan**, even if they are usually scheduled for PE on this day. All children must be in full uniform for their photograph. You may also wish to send your child with a **hairbrush** so they can tidy their hair before their photo is taken. Each child will bring home a **PhotoTicket** containing a **QR code** which you can scan to view and order photographs online.

For **separated families**, if you would like to receive an additional PhotoTicket for your child's photograph, please email the school office and we will have this emailed to you when they become available online.

Thank you for your support.

Children in Need...

Next **Friday 14th November**, our school will be raising money for Children in Need by doing the '25 Challenge'. During the week, we will be doing 25 minutes of exercise across the week. It could be an intense workout for 5 minutes each day or a hard-hitting 25 minutes in one go! The children are invited to **wear non-uniform** on this day and we ask that you contribute on our JustGiving link. Just £1 from each child can make such a difference. Thank you for your support and we hope to make the Pudsey appeal a success!

The Junior Leadership Team

https://www.justgiving.com/page/high-ash-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



HASA School Discos, Thursday 13th November...

There is still time to book your child's place at the upcoming HASA School Discos! Bookings and payments can be made via your MCAS app under 'Products'.

For **Foundation and KS1** children who usually attend **Wraparound Care on Thursday**, please note that they will go straight to Wraparound Care after the disco. Please send your child into school with a change of clothes so they can change at the end of the school day before the disco begins. When changed, the children will be escorted to the hall. **If you will be collecting your child after the disco instead of going to wraparound care, please make sure to email the office confirming this arrangement.**



For **KS2** children who are booked into **Wraparound Care** and are also attending the later disco, please be assured that the wrap registers will be updated accordingly. Wrap staff will escort these children to the hall at **4.45pm** for the disco.

Thank you for your support – we're looking forward to a fun evening for all!

Poppy Appeal...

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

In **Acorns** this week, we have started our work on celebrations! We have talked about Bonfire night, learning the reason why we celebrate it and talking about fireworks. We created firework art using chalk on black paper, with our firework explosions we also wrote the initial sounds for the noises that fireworks make such as 'b' for bang and 'z' for zoom.



We have also been talking about Remembrance Day. We had a collective worship all about it on Monday where we listened to the last post and began to understand why remembering what happened in the past is important and how we show respect to those who have lost their lives in wars. We learned that this is why we wear poppies and we then created poppies using loose parts.



Acorn Reminders

- **Next week we will be exploring Remembrance with a few stories on Tuesday. If you do attend a Remembrance event or observe it at home, you could talk to your child about the importance of the silence as we will be observing it, so it would be good if they understood why.**
- **Next week is also anti-bullying week, so we will be exploring the story of Elmer, understanding that we need to be ourselves and appreciate and respect each other. You could talk to your child about what makes them special and how important respecting each other is.**

Year One and Two

We would like to say a huge thank you for all the wonderful homework the children have been sharing this week. We have been so impressed with all of their hard work and enthusiasm. It gives the children a really lovely opportunity to develop their Oracy skills when they stand up in front of their friends to show off their art, poems, constructions and photos.

The children loved using Google Earth to kick off our new Geography topic by asking 'Where in the world am I?' We were able to zoom in on an aerial view of Great Brickhill and its features. The children were thrilled to spot familiar locations and then worked in groups to add labels to an aerial photograph of the school and the surrounding area.



This week's 'I'm a Clever Writer text' has been 'Leaf Man' by Lois Ehlert, a perfect Autumn story that helped Year 2 add conjunctions to their writing and Year 1 choose appropriate sentence starters. Year 1 have really enjoyed the opportunity to retell the story using art and mini books in their Continuous Provision. Year 1 have been using a range of manipulatives to support their adding skills and Year 2 have been using Rekenreks to help them with the tricky task of adding by making 10.



Year 1/2 Reminders

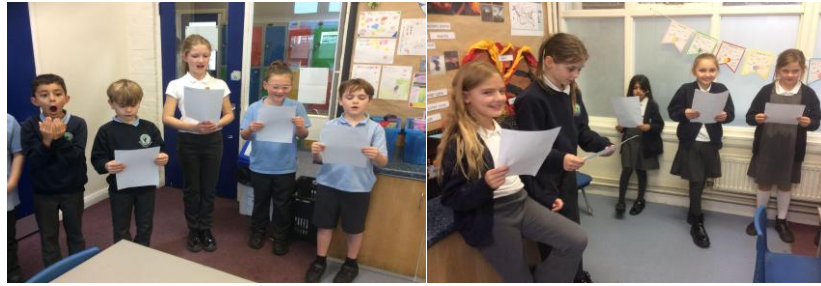
- Next week our 'I'm a Clever Writer text' will be 'The Leaf Thief' by Alice Hemming.
- Please ensure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat in school every day as we will be learning outside every day!
- Apple Class PE will still go ahead on Wednesday but with photographs being taken, we ask all the children to please wear their full school uniform instead of their PE kit on this day. Thank you.

Year Three and Four

In Year 3/4 this week, the children have been bursting with excitement as they started their brand-new Geography topic: Would you like to live near a volcano? To kick things off, they were lucky enough to welcome a special visitor from Cottesloe School, the Head of Geography, who inspired them with fascinating facts about volcanoes around the world. The children were captivated by the presentation and are now raring to learn even more about this explosive topic! In their first lesson, they explored the four layers of the Earth, discovering interesting facts about each one before creating and labelling their own colourful models to show their understanding.



In Music, we learnt how to sing in a round. We learnt a new tune called "The River is flowing" then split into two groups. One group started and the second group started halfway through making a round.



In Year 3 Maths this week, the children have been learning how to use column addition with exchange. They began by exploring the process visually, using place value counters to show what happens when we exchange ten ones for one ten and move it into the tens column. This hands-on approach really helped to deepen their understanding, and the children can now complete column addition independently and confidently. Well done, Year 3!

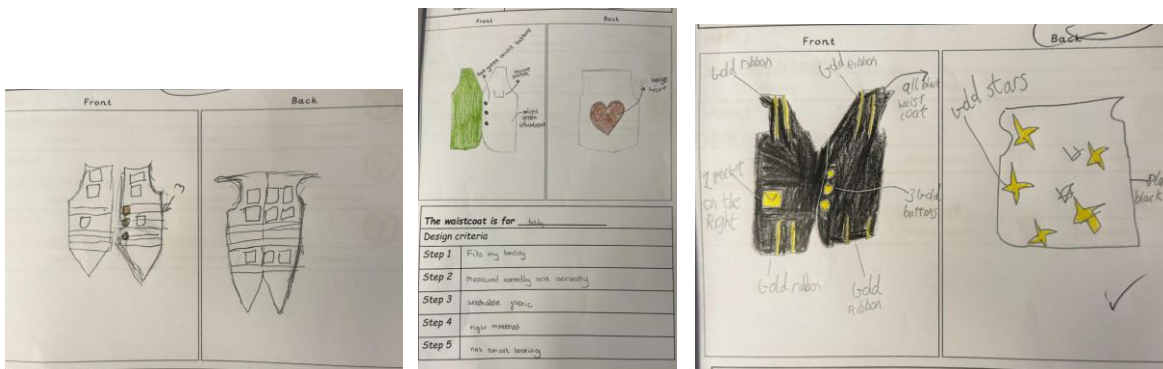


Year 3/4 Reminders

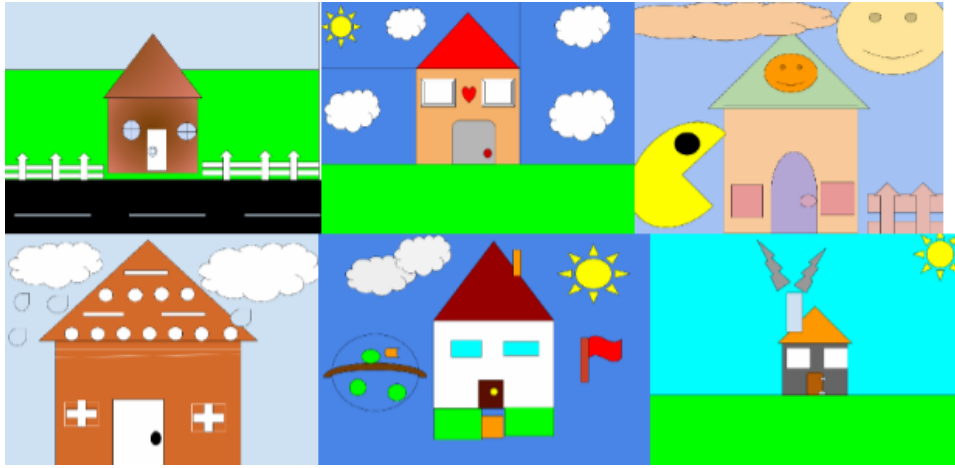
- If you would like to buy your child a copy of our Guided Reading text it is 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. The Children love having their own copy and they can take it home and read it again!!

Year Five and Six

We have started our eagerly-awaited D&T unit where we will be creating our very own waistcoats! In our lessons this week, we spoke about famous British designers, such as Vivienne Westwood, Thomas Burberry and Stella McCartney. It's fair to say that many of us were not fans of Vivienne Westwood's designs yet saw the purpose behind the famous Burberry coat with its unique weather-proof material. Using these designers as inspiration, we took to designing our own waistcoats, considering what would make it a successful final product. We certainly have some ambitious, budding fashion designers in our midst!



In Computing, we have been using drawing tools to create vector drawings by using shapes. We experimented with different shapes, lines and colour choices to create our own unique houses. We can see how these are very different to paper-based drawings as the colour is bolder, the lines are crisper and there is more variation as we can edit easily.



This week in Science, we began our unit of work learning about forces. We found out about Isaac Newton and that gravity was a force he named. We learned that gravity is measured in Newtons and that 1 Newton is approximately 1 apple. Using this information, we estimated the Newtons required to lift a pen, stretch an elastic band and drag a chair. We then completed a chart in our books to record our findings. Other forces we discussed were: air resistance, water resistance and friction. We'll learn more about these in our upcoming science lessons.



Year 5/6 Reminders:

- Willow Class Assembly, Friday 14th November - All parents welcome. Doors open at 2.05pm, starting at 2.15pm.
- Willow Class will need to wear their PE kit on Tuesday rather than Monday next week. Friday PE will remain as usual.
- We will still be very grateful for any fabric off-cuts or buttons that you have available for our textiles unit this half term

Match Report...

On Tuesday 4th November, our amazing girls team played Whitchurch Primary School. Before we get into the game, we would like to say thank you to Mrs Derham for being a lovely, supportive coach, cheering us on all the way through the game; Azalea and William J for staying and training our team; our referee for making sure we played a fair game and a big thank you to the parents, teachers and students on the side-lines.

Now, getting into the game! Our starting line-up was Divine in goal, Daisy and Gaby {our captain} in defence, Cali in centre midfield, Ava and Phoebe on the wings and Tilly up front. Kicking off, we started strong, battling for every ball. Soon after kick-off, Cali drove down the centre and beat all of their players and passed the ball to Ava. Ava took a great shot but sadly dragged the ball wide. Unfortunately, we had conceded a goal! After that, Divine made a shocking save that hyped up the crowd until we sadly conceded another to make it 2:0. We were distraught but we kept our heads held high and carried on. As a team, we took the ball, driving it down the field. Gaby took an amazing shot but was unlucky and was off-target. One small mistake made it 3:0. The whistle blew. It was half time. Our encouraging team-talk enlightened people's spirit and hope. Then, it was the next half...WE'VE GOT THIS! Coming out into the second half, we were fierce. Battling through their midfield and through their defence, Cali took a shot but it got saved by their keeper so then they put it on the floor to pass it. However, once the goalkeeper drops the ball out of their hands, you can tackle the ball off of them. So, Cali took advantage of that and swiped the ball out of the keeper's feet and scored! It was 3:1 now. The ball was running through our defence and Cleo, who was now our goalkeeper, SAVED IT! We went mad! Shortly after, we let in two more but that didn't destroy our hope. We kept trying and trying and trying until the final whistle blew. Some great defending throughout and some great dribbles as well. As the final whistle blew, we shook their hands, congratulating them on a fair, wonderful game. We gave

'Girl of the game' to their number 9, who had a great understanding of the game. They gave our 'Girl of the game' to Tilly, who showed great support throughout the match. We are so happy with how we played and we wish to continue like we did on Tuesday.



Star Writers

Well done to all of our star writers from Savannah in Acorns who has been making some terrific progress with her mark making and letter formation to Callie, Riley, Ethan and Albie for such well-presented, detailed biographies about famous scientists. Ariyah, Blu and Alice had produced some excellent instructions for how to make a tasty smoothie using skills to ensure it was in chronological order. Finally, a huge well done to Sophia and Oscar for their gorgeous writing, you are certainly clever writers!



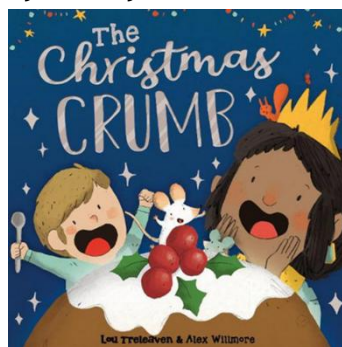
For the love of reading

We love books at High Ash and we have some great news to share...

Christmas Story Time with Lou Trelevan - Wed 3rd Dec

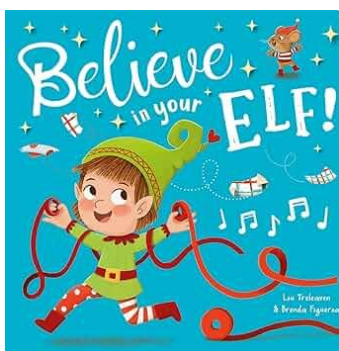
We are delighted to be welcoming bestselling author and storyteller Lou Trelevan to High Ash. Lou will spend the morning with Chestnut, Cherry, Apples and Acorns Class to get them into the Festive spirit with her stories 'The Christmas Crumb' and 'Believe in Your Elf'.

Both books are available to order via your MCAS account. Please visit the Products page and place your order by Monday 8th December.



The Christmas Crumb - £9.90, hardback

A family of giants drop a crumb of Christmas Pudding - but one crumb doesn't matter, does it? Join Pip and his mother, the mice and the ants as everyone benefits from this giant Christmas bonanza and learns that what might be a little thing for you can turn out to be a big thing for someone else. A truly special tale about the power of giving.



Believe in your Elf - £5, paperback (limited supply)

There's trouble at the North Pole. It's Christmas Eve but there are still so many toys to make and presents to wrap. Smudge, a young elf, tries to help out but every toy he builds falls apart and each present he wraps looks too messy. Smudge soon grows disheartened - no matter what job he does, nothing seems to work out... Will Smudge discover some 'elf belief and help the elves save Christmas? This is a beautifully-written festive tale that shows children the true power of having self-confidence and self-belief, and that being different can be amazing!

Book in Leighton Buzzard is organising this event, do pay them a visit as they have some great books in store: Book Leighton Buzzard, 3 High Street Mews, LU7 1EA, insta: bookleightonbuzzard

Scholastic Book Club

If you want to shop from the comfort of your own home then our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-2FVL9KK2> to browse the latest books and order online or look out for the brochure coming home with your child. Scholastic Book Clubs offer some great books all chosen by children's book experts. Many are at pocket money prices or could make a great stocking filler. And for every £1 you spend on the Scholastic Book Club, High Ash will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards for when we need to buy books for use in school. **Please place your order online by Monday 8th December for delivery by the end of term.**



Big Bean Boost

We have signed up to Veg Power's Big Bean Boost. You may have already seen adverts on the TV. Beans are small but are a mighty powerhouse of nutrition, that are budget friendly and kind to the planet. The Big Bean Boost is a fun campaign to encourage children to eat more beans and hopefully then make life easier for parents to introduce the same changes at home.



There is a bean dish on the menu each week this term (...as well as the baked beans option with jacket potatoes every day). Look out for one of Bean monster on menu posters and there are stickers for children choosing one of the new bean dishes.

Your child will also be coming home with a Monster Mission Pack telling you more about the campaign and stickers to encourage the children to try new beans dishes and there is more information for parents and carers attached with the newsletter.

Reflections this week...

This week we have been learning about Remembrance, thinking about why it is important to remember. We explained to the children that Remembrance is not about celebrating war. War brings fear, loss and heartbreak. Remembrance is about:

- Thankfulness for those who protected others
- Respect for those who suffered
- Hope that we choose peace, kindness and fairness in the future

We explained that when we see people laying wreaths at memorials or standing silently, they are saying: "We remember. We respect. We will try to make the world better."

The children have then made pictures, written prayers and poems to be displayed at the churches this weekend.

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 Coach House 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.

Whole School Flu Vaccinations...

The Buckinghamshire Immunisation Team will be visiting our school on **Wednesday 26th November**. The team uses on-line consent for all school immunisations.

Please find attached a letter detailing all the relevant links required to complete a consent form. Please ensure that you complete your child's form as soon as possible, and at the latest the day before their visit.

You are required to complete a form to either consent OR decline this immunisation - please choose the Year Group your child is currently in.

Click the link below to fill out the consent form and send it back as soon as you can – at least one full school day before the vaccination day. This helps us make sure your child can get the vaccine at school.

If your child doesn't get the vaccine at school, you can also take them to a community clinic nearby.

1. Click the link <https://www.buckschildimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

2. Enter the Unique School Code EE110419

3. Complete the form (one per child). Please complete even if you are **DECLINING** the vaccination.

Winter weather PE

As the weather is turning wintry, our school field is getting increasingly muddy. For PE lessons to continue outside, we are asking all children to **bring in a spare pair of trainers** to wear outside for their PE days. They can change into these for their lesson outside and back into their clean shoes once inside. Thank you for your support with this.



A HUGE THANK YOU...

This week we took delivery of 9 globes, 1 for each class. These have been generously donated by Kate Ruddick, one of our school Governors to support our teaching of geography. We are very grateful and already many of the children have enjoyed looking for the UK and other countries they may have visited or have heard about. Thank you!



The children have also started golf lessons this week as part of our PE curriculum. Thank you to all those parents who donated via our Crowd-funder site to help fund the purchase of class set of starter clubs.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 95.5%. Please ensure you always email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school.

Diary dates w-c 10th November...

Monday 10th November - Anti-Bullying Week - Wear odd socks

Tuesday 11th November - Years 3/4 continuing with swimming lessons. Please remember to send your child into school with their swimming kit/towel in a bag.

Wednesday 12th November from 9.00am - Individual/Siblings in school photographs

Thursday 13th November - HASA School Disco

Friday 14th November - Children in Need - Non-Uniform day for a small donation via JustGiving link

Friday 14th November @ 2.15pm - Willow Class Assembly, all parents welcome! Doors open at 2.05pm

Friday 14th November @ 2.55pm - KS2 Star Assembly. Invitation only. Doors open at 2.45pm

Have a great weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk