



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter



Friday 14th November 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

This week we have welcomed Caroline in, the founder and consultant of the writing approach we use across the school, I Am a Clever Writer. She came to work alongside the teachers and Mrs Derham (our writing lead) to look at how we are implementing the approach. She was extremely impressed with our children and their learning behaviours and the teachers' live modelling. The main development point for us is how we are supporting the children who are working significantly below the expected standard. We have also welcomed our Challenge Partners Review team. Challenge Partners' Quality Assurance Review is a professionally-led peer review focused on teaching and learning. The review identifies areas of strength and areas for development, highlighting and discussing key challenges and providing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for all participants. It is a joint exercise between the visiting reviewers and the host school. This approach enables honest and open conversations about where the school is and where it is going, to the benefit of all concerned. The visiting reviewers were really blown away by how happy the children are at our school. When they spoke to the children, they all talked about how they felt like they belonged and how safe they felt when they are at school. The reviewers also commented on how far the school has come and how hard all staff are working to develop their own pedagogy. We will get the final report in a fortnight and this will help me lead the school.

Anti-bullying week...

This week is National Anti-bullying week. This year's theme is power for good. It was lovely to see so many children wearing odd socks on Monday! Thank you.



Show Racism the Red Card...

Showing compassion, tolerance and kindness are core elements of our school's values. We believe it is important the children learn about and respect the diversity around them. An organisation called 'Show Racism the Red Card' is visiting school next week, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th November to talk to our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 children. The sessions look at the history of racism and explore the meaning of discrimination and stereotyping and ultimately look to ensure the children are learning to be inclusive in all they do.

Learning highlights this week....

Acorns

It has been a lovely week in Acorn class learning about how we are all special and celebrating our differences. We wore odd socks as part of anti-bullying week. We have talked about what bullying is and how it is when someone does unkind things to someone over and over, not just once. We have looked at the story of Elmer and talked about how Elmer was different from the other elephants but that they all cared for him and even created an Elmer day to celebrate him and how unique he is.



In Forest School we also talked about Children in Need and Pudsey and why we would be wearing our own clothes on Friday. Our 'challenge 25' involved us doing 5 minutes of exercise a day extra in class as part of raising money for children in need and in learning how other children need help in the UK and we can be part of helping them. We created a Pudsey face in Forest School using the Autumn leaves that we collected.

Acorn Reminders

- If you have cardboard boxes (cereal boxes, tissue boxes, packaging), cardboard tubes (toilet rolls, kitchen rolls), plastic bottles and caps, pots, tubs, trays, cartons, jars, bottle tops and lid or paper towel rolls, we would love them for junk modelling.
- Next week we will be exploring the story 'The Leaf Thief'. You could talk to your children about what is happening to the leaves in Autumn. We have spoken about how the trees that lose their leaves are deciduous and the leaves that do not fall and stay green, are evergreen trees in Forest School.
- Please practise the children's lines ready for our nativity as we have started learning our songs.

Year One and Two

Another very busy week in the world of Key Stage One when all of the children have unanimously voted Geography as their favourite lesson of the week (the teachers too!). Our big question of 'Where in the world are we?' led us to an investigation of different maps and their features and then a lovely practical activity of making a 'messy map' of our classrooms using any objects we could find. We loved seeing the blend of creativity and planning that went into each map.

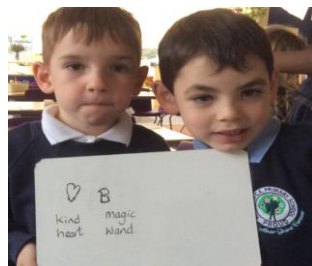


Throughout the week we have been fitting in our exercise for Children in Need and enjoying getting our heart rates up in order to complete the 'Challenge yourself to 25 for Pudsey' activities. On Monday, when we wore old socks for Anti-Bullying Day, we talked about how important it was to be your own individual, wonderful selves and the children discussed how we can ensure that everyone feels welcomed and loved in our school.

In RE, we debated what was needed to make the world a better place with 'a kind heart' being one of Mrs Barrasford's favourite answers!

In Art, we have been continuing our investigations into Primary and Secondary colours and perfecting our mixing techniques.

Our 'I'm a Clever Writer' text this week has been 'The Leaf Thief' by Alice Hemming, a really lovely book about a frustrated, little squirrel who is convinced his friends are stealing his leaves! The children have really engaged with the story and we can whole heartedly recommend it if you are looking for a lovely autumn themed bed time story.



Year 1/2 Reminders

- Costume requests for our Nativity will be coming home in diaries next week. Please could all **costumes be in school by Thursday 4th December**. If you have any concerns about providing a costume please just let us know as we have lots of 'spares' in school!
- Year 2 - lines for the Nativity will also come home next week, we would be so grateful if you could support your children to learn them as soon as possible.

Year Three and Four

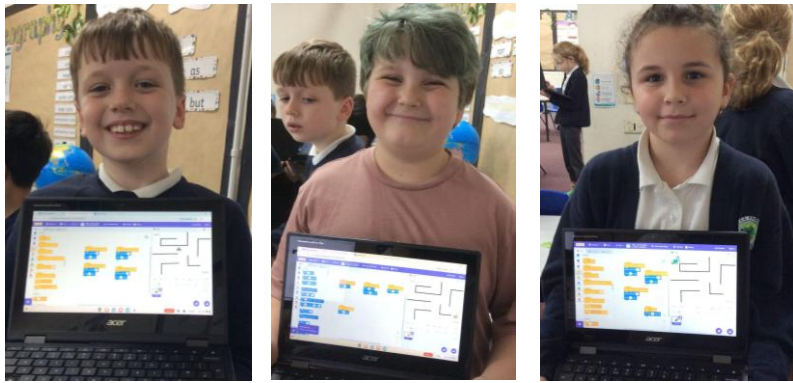
This week in RE, we have been learning about the symbols that are related to the Nativity story and why Christians may think of them as significant or important to them. We had to first decide which of the symbols we see at Christmas were religious or secular. Then we looked at 3 symbols that we thought might be the most significant to Christians and explained our thinking behind that.



In Science, we were investigating friction. We learnt that friction is when two things rub together to slow down or stop. We each had a toy car and we tested different surfaces inside and outside. We observed how much friction there was between the car and the surface when we pulled it along. We used this knowledge to design a road. We agreed mud is a bad material for a road as there is too much friction.



During our computing lessons, we used Scratch. We had to create 4 types of code to move our sprite through a maze without it touching the lines. To start, we picked a sprite and resized it so it wouldn't hit the edges. We then had to duplicate code to create movements around the maze. We have some brilliant coders in 3/4!



On Wednesday 19th November we will be walking all Year 3/4 children to St. Mary's Church after lunch to have a talk with Rev. John Waller.

Year 3/4 Reminders

- Holly Class Assembly on Friday 21st November @ 2.15pm - All parents welcome
- Show Racism the Red Card - Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th November
- Please make sure your child has a healthy (nut free) snack for swimming as they miss break at school and may not have time to eat it when they get back.
- Next week we will be conducting an experiment using magnets against different materials. If the children would like to bring in non-valuable items from home to test, this is encouraged. Suggestions include: old tins, cans etc.

Year Five and Six

In our science lesson this week, we studied the movement of pendulums. We found out that Galileo noticed that chandeliers in his church swung in the wind in a steady rhythm and wondered why. We wondered how to make a pendulum swing more quickly or slowly and adjusted the three variables during our investigation; they were: the length of the string, angle of release and mass of the bob. We timed each over ten oscillations, three times, then went on to find the average. Our findings were that the weight of the bob made no difference and neither did the angle of release. It was only by shortening the length of the string that the speed of the pendulum increased.



In D&T, we have started to prepare our material! Using a template, we drew an outline on our material of choice in chalk and then began to cut out. We had to ensure we left space for sewing the pieces together and made this clear when drawing. We definitely found it a challenge and soon realised that the intricate pieces of fabric would not be suitable for our waistcoats as they would be too difficult to cut and prepare.



In PE, we have been using our fantastic new golf equipment. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the new kit, it is fantastic to see a new sport on the PE curriculum! The children have been using putters and aiming

according to different distances whilst applying the new techniques.



In Miss Jolliffe's maths group, we have been learning about the order of operations. We enjoyed using counters to help us visualise the calculations. Working with our partners, we discussed the correct order in which the operations should be carried out: brackets, powers, division, multiplication, addition, and finally subtraction.



Year 5/6 Reminders

- Show Racism the Red Card - Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th November
- As the weather is taking a wintery turn next week, please ensure your child wears a coat to school.
- Please remember to send your child in with a spare pair of shoes on PE days.

Star Writers...

Well done to all of our amazing star writers this week. In Year 5 and 6, Anna, Emilia and Ava read some elements from their retell of 'Tadpole's Promise', which included skills such as descriptive dialogue and flashbacks. In Year 3 and 4, Jhe'kim, Charlie, Henry and Connie have shown they are clever writers, by using wonderful presentation and determination in their piece about the 'Iron Man'. In KS1, Connor, Zelda, Flynn and Leo had shown great progress in their writing, using the conjunction 'because' in addition to so many other skills. Finally, a huge well done to Arthur for his amazing letter formation in Foundation!



🔔 Design Santa's Sleigh Competition! 🔔

We are delighted to announce a fun and festive Design & Technology competition open to all year groups! This year, your child is invited to design and build a sleigh for Santa – ready to help him deliver presents around the world!

There will be two competition categories:

- Foundation and Key Stage 1
- Key Stage 2

To enter, children should:

- Design their sleigh (the design sheet will have come home with your child today)
- Create a prototype model using recycled or junk-modelling materials from home or Lego, or wooden lolly sticks etc. Think like an engineer!

🎁 Prizes for each category:

- 1st place: 🎁 £20 voucher for the winner from each Key Stage
- Runner-up: 🎁 £10 voucher for the runner-up from each Key Stage
- Every entry: 🏠 5 house points for taking part!

We are delighted that the prizes have been sponsored by Tofield Ltd, a local building and joinery company, that do much of the building work in our school. It's great to have some real-life design and technology involvement in the competition. Please remember – this is a children's competition, so we're looking for child-made sleighs (a little adult help is encouraged, but the magic should come from the children themselves!). ✦

Both the design sheet and model should be handed in to your child's class teacher by Friday, 12th December. Winners will be announced in the Reflection Assembly on Thursday 18th December. Thank you for encouraging your child's creativity – We can't wait to see their imaginative, festive and very child-made sleighs!

Christmas Story Time with Lou Trelevan - Wed 3rd Dec...

We are looking forward to 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.

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 sent 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 December 8th, 2025 for delivery by the end of term.

Reflections this week...

This week we have talked about how Across the country, children and adults are thinking about **kindness**, **friendship**, and how we can all use our **power for good**. We also talked about how small acts of kindness can make a **big difference**. I took the opportunity to talk to the children about what bullying is and shared with them our policy which defines bullying as:

The repetitive or persistent intentional hurting of one person by another, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

At High Ash CE we define bullying as outlined by the DFE in the following way:

Behaviour that is -

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

It takes many forms and can include -

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)

We reminded all of the children that if they are being bullied or see someone being bullied they **must tell someone**. I also reminded all children that bullying at High Ash is not tolerated and that I will always listen if someone says they are being bullied.

The bible reading we looked at this week was taken from Romans 12:21 '*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good*'.

Reminder - 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 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.

School Photographs...

As you know, all children had their individual and sibling photographs taken this week on Wednesday 12th November.

Each child that was present in school for the photographs will have brought home their PhotoTicket containing a QR code which you can scan to view and order photographs online. If you have not received this PhotoTicket, or if you have misplaced it, please email the school office. Once all photos are available to view online, we can re-send you a digital copy of the PhotoTicket. **The photographs can take up to 5 working days to view online.**

For separated families, if you would like to receive an additional PhotoTicket for your child's photograph, please let us know via email and we will ensure this is sent to you once available.

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.



Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94.3%. This is below the national average. Please do try to send your child to school every day as it really does make a difference. Remember to always email absence@highhashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.



Please read the attached HASA newsletter with upcoming events.

Diary dates w-c 17th November...

Tuesday 18th November - Y3/4 Swimming

Wednesday 19th November - School Nursing Team in for the Year 6 Height and Weight screening

Wednesday 19th November at 2.45pm - SEND Parents Tea and Cake Event

Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th November - Year 5/6 and Y3/4 Show Racism the Red Card

Friday 21st November at 2.15pm - Holly Class Assembly. Parents Welcome! Doors open at 2.05pm

Friday 21st November at 2.55pm - F/KS1 Star Assembly. Invitation only. Doors open at 2.45pm

Wednesday 26th November - Whole School Flu Vaccinations

Friday 28th November - INSET DAY (School Closed)

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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