



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 21st November 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

The weather has certainly changed this week. Please do send your children into school with warm winter coats, hats and gloves as we do go outside at playtime and lunchtimes. If your child is in Acorns or Key Stage 1 - every day they spend some time outside completing their learning and I have seen many children this week with very cold hands as they didn't have any gloves. Thank you for your support with this.

Show Racism the Red Card...

This week, we had Show Racism the Red Card in school to deliver thought-provoking sessions discussing important topics such as stereotyping, discrimination and racism. They informed us that we have to use the correct terminology of 'black' rather than 'coloured' and the historical context of this. We thought about how many skin colours there are in the world and quickly recognised that we all have very different skin colours, even in just one class! When looking at stereotypes, we considered what a christian looks like, or a muslim, or a gypsy/traveller and quickly discovered that we can't know what someone's culture, ethnicity or religion is before knowing who they are. We finished our sessions understanding that we all have the responsibility to be an 'Active Citizen' and safely challenge those who are stereotyping or discriminating against others and then educate them on how they should behave. The platinum rule that we were left with was 'Treat others how they would like to be treated'.



Final Reminder - Whole School Flu Vaccinations...

The Buckinghamshire Immunisation Team will be visiting our school next week, 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...

Please remember to scan the QR code on your child's PhotoTicket to view their photographs and place your order online. The deadline for ordering is **Wednesday 3rd December** to receive **free delivery to the school**. If you have not received your PhotoTicket, or if it has been misplaced, please email the school office and we will be happy to send you a digital copy.

Choir Visit to Lindens Care Home - Wednesday 10th December

Our Choir Club members have been invited to entertain the residents of Lindens Care Home on **Wednesday 10th December**. This is a much-loved annual tradition that both our pupils and the residents thoroughly enjoy, as it brings festive cheer in the lead-up to Christmas.

Parents of choir members will have received a letter this week with full details. Please ensure you click on the link provided within the letter to consent and confirm transport arrangements. Thank you.

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns

Acorns have been looking at the story 'The Leaf Thief' and used this story to talk about what happens when the seasons change and what we see as signs in nature that the season is changing. We have seen this especially in Forest School each week but also by the sudden snowfall that we had on Wednesday! We had lots of fun playing in the snow and talking about how it felt, what it sounded like under our wellies and the effect it had on our hands! We even brought some of it into the classroom and observed how it melted and changed state into water. Throughout the day, we talked about how the snow slowly melted and disappeared from the playground and field and why that had happened. It was a great opportunity to gain knowledge and have a greater understanding about the world around us.



Thank you for all of your donations of junk modelling! The children have been learning how to design and then build using what has been sent in. It has been an excellent opportunity for us to put into practice learning how to form our sounds to write the start sounds of what we are building as well as writing our names on our designs. The children have been exploring how to join materials together, this has mostly been sellotape and lots of it at the moment, however we will begin to explore different joining methods such as using tabs or slots to fix pieces together.

Foundation - Goldilocks and the Three Bears Pantomime

We are very excited to be taking our Foundation Class to MK Theatre next year on Friday 9th January to watch the pantomime *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. This will be a relaxed performance, making it especially suitable for younger children who may find a traditional theatre setting overwhelming.

You will have received a letter earlier this week via Bromcom through your MCAS app containing full details about the trip. Please ensure you read this letter and



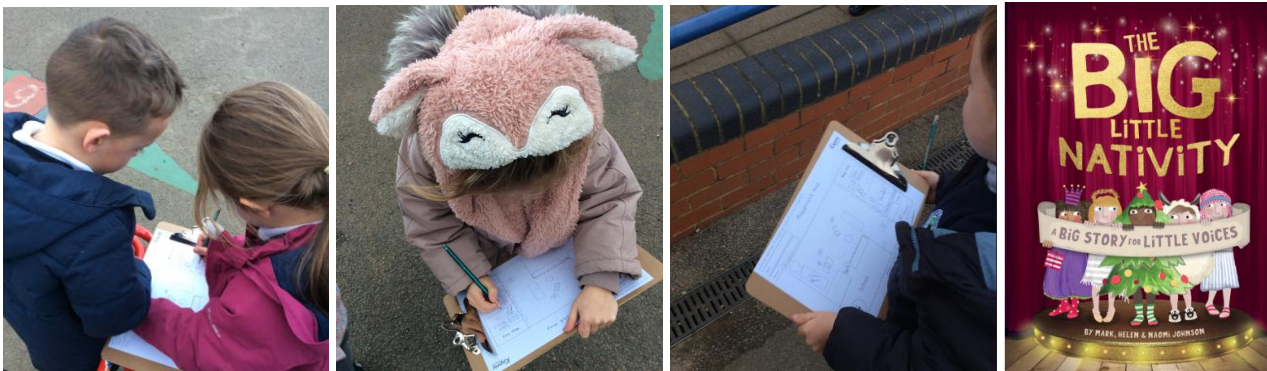
provide consent for your child to attend by submitting your payment through your MCAS app. Thank you for your support.

Acorn Reminders

- Keep sending in junk modelling please.
- Ensure your child is bringing in plenty of layers such as a warm winter coat, hats, gloves and scarves and that these are named wherever possible.
- Keep practicing the nativity lines with your child at home.
- We will be exploring the story 'Leaf Man' next week. You could go on an Autumnal walk and talk about what signs you can see where you live that the season is Autumn but also what changes there are that show that Winter is coming very soon!

Year One and Two

Year 1 & 2 have been continuing their Geography investigations by using a map to explore the school grounds. We braved the cold to go outside and spot the human and physical features on our maps and learnt that symbols can represent features on a map. In our Art lessons we were inspired by artist Jasper John and his 'Numbers in Colour'. We used our colour mixing skills to create three secondary colours and chose from a variety of brushes to make different marks. Nativity excitement has started and we have allocated parts to all children. We hope they are all happy and will enjoy sharing and practising lines and songs at home until the big performances in December!



In RE we have looked at the Christian symbols and images that are used to represent Advent and we have been thinking about the gifts Christians might think Jesus brought to the world. In PSHE we have continued to discuss what bullying might look like and the various strategies we can use to stand for people who are being treated unfairly.

Year 1/2 Reminders

- Year 2 - Lines and Costume information have been sent out in diaries today. Year 1 will follow next week. Please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the KS1 team if you have any questions regarding costumes.
- Please send all children into school with a warm coat and gloves every day. All children require a change of shoes for PE on a Tuesday.

Foundation and KS1 Nativities...

Our Foundation and KS1 children are currently rehearsing and practising their lines for this year's Nativity performances.

- **Foundation Nativity:** Tuesday 16th December at 2:00pm
- **KS1 Nativity:** Tuesday 16th December at 5:30pm and Wednesday 17th December at 2:00pm and 5:30pm

Letters with full details, including how to book and pay for seats via your MCAS app, will be sent to you during the first week of December.

Year Three and Four

In Science this week we were learning about magnetism. We learnt that something is magnetic if it is attracted to a magnet. We explored lots of different materials including different types of metal. First, we had to predict whether we thought they were magnetic or not. Then, using a bar magnet we tested to see which were attracted to the magnet. We were surprised to learn that not all metals are magnetic.



In Music this week we learnt all about ostinatos, (a short musical pattern that is repeated). Specifically learning about how we can make these with percussion instruments. Carrying on with the theme of rivers, we each chose a part of the river we wanted to make an ostinato for. Thinking about the part of the river we chose, we thought about which percussion instrument would be the best to use. Some chose chimebars, some chose rain makers and we had some fantastic sticks to hit together. Next week we will put each part on top of each other to create the sound of a river.



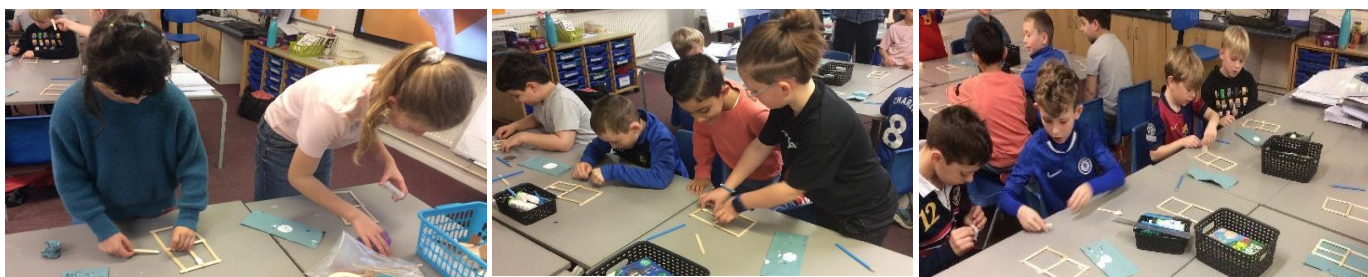
For our RE lesson this week, we took a trip down to the church to talk to Reverend Waller. This half term, we are thinking about different symbols from the Christmas story and what they may mean to different people. To help us understand more about this Reverend Waller spoke to us about the symbols he thought were the most important and we also spoke to the fantastic church wardens about what are the most important symbols to them. We had some great questions to ask at the end which really impressed Reverend Waller.



In Geography, we learnt all about the three different types of volcano - active, dormant and extinct and can now give clear definitions. To find out more about these volcanoes, we used the chromebooks to research the different volcanoes and where they are in the world. We noticed that most of the volcanoes which are active are located in the ring of fire!



In DT, we've started making the chassis and body for our slingshot cars. We will be designing, testing and evaluating in future lessons once the axles and wheels are on!



Year 3/4 Reminders

- For our Christmas Fayre craft, Holly class needs toilet roll tubes if you have any to recycle. Thank you!
- Please remember to send your children in with spare shoes for PE as the field is getting increasingly muddy!
- Year 4 are working super hard on their times table recall and knowledge. If you could help them along and practice at any time you can, that would be brilliant!

Year Five and Six

In Science, we carried out a practical experiment after considering what would happen (and what is needed - a parachute!) if someone decides to jump out of a plane.



We ran with nothing, then with white caddy liners and then with black bin sacks. Although it wasn't the fairest of tests (we might have run at varying speeds, we might have held the bags differently...), the time recorded overall showed that the black sacks slowed us down by approximately 1 second compared to running without anything. Air resistance was created which reduced our speed.

For class assembly, we made a kindness paper chain, including how to be nice and make people feel welcome. "Let them join in," "say hello" and "be a role model" were some of the phrases we included.



In computing, we continued with vector drawings. We recoloured, resized, rotated, copied and pasted shapes. We considered their order, added in additional features, turning plain penguins into vibrant parrots!



Year 5/6 Reminders

- Please remember to send your children in with spare shoes for PE as the field is getting increasingly muddy!

Star Writers



Another wonderful week of writing with star writers from across the school. A huge well done to Emi, Millie, Jax and Flora for their emotional yet informal letters based on the text 'Tadpole's Promise'. In Year 3/4, they have used excellent metaphors when describing the Iron Man. Well done to the star writers Niamh, Jack and Ishaan. Alice and Zachary have been producing some great writing in Year 2, using the conjunctions 'because' and 'and' whilst keeping beautiful handwriting! Well done to all of our star writers this week.

🔺 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 9th December for delivery by the end of term.



Reminder HASA Events...

Upcoming Events

- Nov 29th: Come and support us at the Church Christmas Fair, St. Mary's 10-13:00
- Dec 5th: Christmas Tree Walk followed by Christmas Craft Fair with raffle, mulled wine, luxury hot chocolate and donuts (pre order via HASA store)
- Dec 6th: Support us at the Cricket Club Christmas Fair
- Dec 16 & 17th: Nativity refreshments

<https://highash.sumupstore.com>

'Jarbola' how-to guide!

Take a clean jam jar and fill it with small, inexpensive items like beads, dice, crayons, erasers, stickers or sweets. The possibilities are endless: be as creative as you like! See below for inspiration. Seal the filled jar with a lid and wrap it in some festive paper. **Bring it into school, along with a preloved teddy, by Thursday 27 November**



Reflections this week...

This week in reflections we have been thinking about what might make it hard for someone to feel like they belong. We discussed what we can do to make people feel welcome to reinforce our theme of #nooutsiders. We considered each of us being like a jigsaw where we belong together, just like the pieces of a jigsaw. Everyone is welcome at High Ash even if they have different eye colour, skin colour, interests to us. It really doesn't matter, it makes our school even better as we are all different pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to make a beautiful picture. Our bible reading this week is taken from Romans 15:7: *Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you.*

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 93.5. Remember to always email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

Diary dates w-c 24th November...

Tuesday 25th November - Year 3/4 Swimming
Wednesday 26th November - Whole School Flu Vaccinations
Friday 28th November - INSET Day (School Closed)

Christmas Countdown...

As December is always a busy and exciting time of year, filled with festive activities and Christmas cheer, we will be sharing a **Christmas Countdown of diary dates** in our next newsletter at the end of next week.

Please ensure you are able to access the newsletter so that you can keep up to date with all the events taking place in school throughout the festive period.

Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kate Goodger

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