



High Ash CE School

Weekly Newsletter



Friday 27th November 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

It has been another productive week this week here at school. There have been lots of children coming to see me to gain their bronze merit badge and I have to congratulate Lilah for getting the first Silver merit badge this academic year - well done Lilah! There has also been great work going on in class, some really tricky maths and some super writing. The children are working really hard to improve their work.

Reminder - 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.

Please ensure you have consented and confirmed transport arrangements by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.gle/2iBkiwoRrHpVt5iE9>

Please note this is just aimed at the parents of our choir club members.

Christmas Countdown Events...

December is always an exciting and busy time in school, with many events taking place. **Please take a moment to read the attached *Christmas Countdown* which lists all activities happening throughout December.** We kindly ask that you keep this document somewhere safe so you can refer to it easily.

For any events that require a response, please ensure you click on the relevant Google Form links provided within the document and submit your form as soon as possible.

If you misplace your copy, the *Christmas Countdown* will also be available on our school website. Thank you for your support.

Foundation and KS1 Nativities...

We are looking forward to sharing the Nativities with you this year.

Foundation Nativity 'A Miracle in Town' - Tuesday 16th December at 2.00pm

KS1 Nativity 'The Big Little Nativity' - Tuesday 16th December @ 5.30pm and Wednesday 17th December @ 2.00pm and 5.30pm

A separate letter has been sent to all F/KS1 parents this morning with full information and how to book your seats. **Seats are limited to 3 seats per family.**

Online bookings are now live. Please book and pay by Wednesday 10th December.

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns

It has been cold this week! We have been talking in Acorns about all the signs of Winter. We have started to see ice and frost on the playground and being able to see our breath when we are playing outside. We have been exploring our story leaf man, learning about story maps and orally retelling the story. The children also sequence the events of the story from what they could recall and created their own story maps.



The children have also been exploring more of our games in the games area this week. They have had fun selecting from our games, setting them up and inviting friends to play. It has been lovely to see them taking turns, having fun and understanding the steps to take to play the games and being happy for each other when they win.

Acorn Reminders

- Please ensure you have paid your contribution towards the cost of taking the Foundation children to MK Theatre to watch the pantomime 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' in January 2026. Please pay via your MCAS app **by Friday 12th December**. Thank you
- Thank you to everyone who has been practicing their lines! Please keep going, we have started rehearsing on the stage and are working on learning the rest of the songs. We have 8 songs to learn for the Nativity in total.
- Please ensure you are sending your child in with extra layers like hats, gloves and scarves and please name them as it is very difficult to identify whose are whose when they become lost.

Year One and Two

Christmas is coming and rehearsals have started for our Christmas Nativity production! The children have been very excited to stand on the stage and we are looking forward to seeing you all at the performances of our 'Big Little Nativity'. Year 2 children have speaking parts and all lines should have been put in their diaries last Friday. It is really important that children know their lines by next week, so please do encourage them to practice over the weekend.

This week has been as busy as usual with a lovely practical outdoor lesson in Geography when the children used all their learning about maps and directional language to create chalk maps of our grounds on the playground. We used symbols to represent human and physical features and also discussed how we can use compass point to help give directions.



Our English writing this week has been based on 'The Santa Trap' by Jonathan Emmett. A brilliantly, funny text about a very bad boy who decides to invent a wicked trap to catch Santa. The children have loved retelling the story using expanded noun phrases and exclamation sentences. We are going to design our own Santa Traps next week!

In RE we have seen really thoughtful and caring responses to the question 'How could I help people in the world by showing love?' It is so lovely to see the children using their PROUD principles in real life scenarios and feeling confident in expressing how to let their light shine.

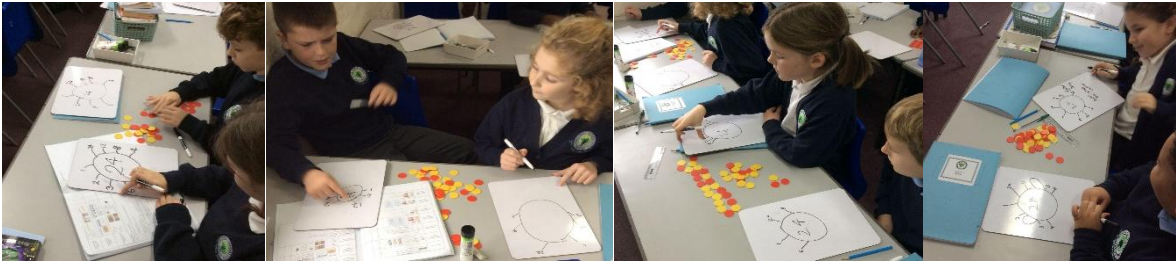
Art continues to be a very popular time of the week and we developed our colour knowledge by experimenting with colour whilst printing. We used a selection of lego bricks and a variety of pressures and then compared and evaluated the results.

Year 1/2 Reminders

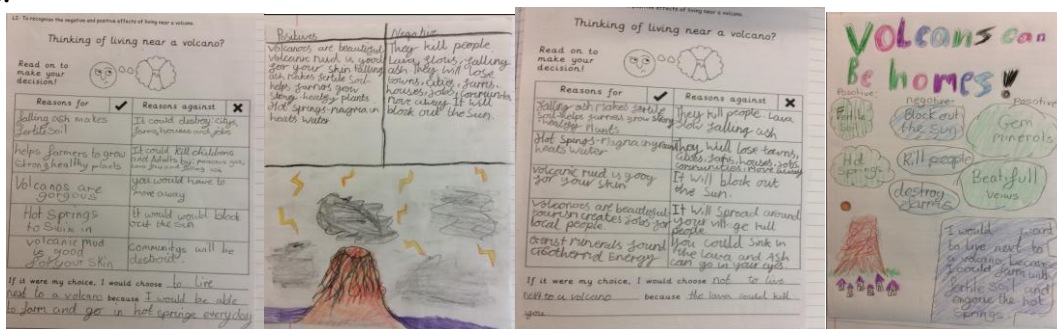
- Nativity Costumes to be brought into school in a named plastic bag by Thursday 4th December, if you have any questions or problems finding a costume please do let us know and we will help.
- All Year lines to be learnt by Monday 1st December.
- All children to bring in a spare pair of trainers/ shoes for PE on Tuesdays.

Year Three and Four

In our Year 4 Maths lessons we have been learning about factors of numbers. To understand how many factors a number has, we started off with factor bugs. Each antenna and leg needed to have a factor of the number and there were no repeats! We had some very clever bugs in our classroom!



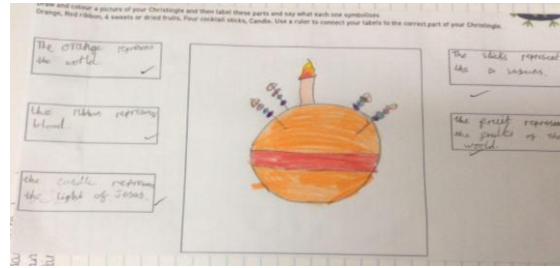
In Geography this week, the children have been learning about the positive and negative effects of a volcano. They explored positive reasons why people might choose to live close to one, for example, enjoying hot springs and benefiting from rich, fertile soil. They explored negative reasons as to why people may want to avoid living near a volcano due to the risks, such as the possibility of losing homes and facing devastation from eruptions. After collecting and discussing ideas, the children decided which they would prefer and then created informative posters to share their opinions.



In Music this week, the children learned how to create and perform an *ostinato*, which is a repeating musical pattern. They began by experimenting with their voices and layering different ostinatos together. Each group then chose a part of the river, upper course, middle course, or lower course and created their own rhythmic patterns using tapping instruments and vocal sounds to represent the flow of the river. They finished by performing their compositions to the class, showcasing great teamwork and creativity.



In RE this week, we were learning all about the symbolism of the Christingle. We cast our minds back to making them last year for the Christmas Carol service at the church and we even remembered what each part meant! To finish off our lesson we drew our own Christingle and labelled the parts and what they represented.



In DT, we have continued making our cars... next, we will be designing the body before testing.



Year 3/4 Reminders

- Please remind your children that they should not be bringing aerosol cans to school or swimming. We have had incidents of them being sprayed in children's eyes and it is also dangerous for them to be sprayed in an enclosed space.
- Our class novel for after christmas is *'The Ancient Egyptian Sleepover'* by **Stephen Davies**. If you would like to buy a copy for your child and donate to the school once we have read it please do! The more books the merrier!
- Please remember to send your children in with spare shoes for PE as the field is getting increasingly muddy!

Year Five and Six

Year 5/6 have had a very busy week, full of hands-on activities and independent research.

In Geography, we have been researching the Alps and looking closely at its highest peak, Mont Blanc. Working in pairs, the children used the Chromebooks to find information about the area. We discovered its height, learned that it is a major tourist destination visited by thousands of people each year, and explored its importance as a scientific research centre where many scientists study climate change and the region's flora and fauna. We even used Google Earth to visit Mont Blanc for ourselves.

In DT, we continued our sewing project, creating waistcoats for our teddies (thank you for the kind donations of fabrics). We are enjoying developing our sewing skills, following in the footsteps of famous fashion designers such as Coco Chanel and others.

In Computing, we worked more on vector drawings - considering the order of the shapes and learning how to send them forwards, backwards, to the back etc. This is so that we could position our shapes exactly where we wanted them. The most recently drawn shape does not have to be on top of everything else! Some of our best computing whizzes learnt new skills today!



In Science, we were learning about water resistance. We thought about what makes us sink and what makes us float. We considered that falling 3 metres through the air would be vastly different to 'falling' through 3 metres of water and tried to explain what would slow us down.

To understand more clearly, we each had a piece of plasticine of the same size which we dropped into beakers of water. We discovered that streamlined shapes encountered less water resistance as is shown by our photos here of Elias and Ethan's work:



Year 5/6 Reminders

- Please remember to send your children in with spare shoes for PE as the field is getting increasingly muddy!
- On the morning of Tuesday 9th December, all the children and staff in Years 5 and 6 will be walking from school to Rushmere for a geography field trip. Please make sure the children wear sensible outside clothing, coats, boots, gloves etc. We will need volunteers to walk with us and help escort the children that morning and would welcome your support. Please inform the office if you are interested in helping out. Thank you.

🚩 **Reminder - 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.



Reflections this week...

This week we have been thinking about how we have felt when we are left out and how we need to ensure that it does not happen here at High Ash. We read the book 'We're all Wonders' about how Auggie felt so sad when people made fun of his face (he has a rare genetic condition which causes disfigurement of the face). He puts on a helmet and with his dog goes up to space - Auggie comments that the world is big enough for everyone to belong in it. The children then in class have create bookmarks for their classmates with You are special because... or they have written notes of encouragement for classmates who may be feeling left out.

Here are some examples from Willow... We wrote things about our classmates that we consider to be their great traits. Hopefully it'll make them feel nice inside when they read them and look at them again and again.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94.5%. If your child's attendance is below 90% we are sending out letters - this is something that I have to do as Headteacher. It is so important that we all give our children the best chance in life by educating them. They need to be in school every day as the children who have absences below 90% are really disadvantaged compared to their peers. It seems that 90% or even 80% sounds great, yet it really isn't. Over an entire academic year, 90% attendance means that a child will have missed 19 days of school - almost a month of school! 80% attendance means that a child will have missed 38 days of school - that is more than half a term of school!

It is also really important to bring your child into school on time. We have a lot of families who are late. Again, this is disadvantageous to your child - 10 or 15 minutes late might not sound like much, yet they have missed the first part of their lessons. In Acorns and Key Stage 1 that is almost half of the phonics lesson. Of course we must not underestimate the impact of arriving late on the child's self esteem. None of us like walking in when the lesson has started - it's embarrassing and you don't really know what is going on. As parents, it is your responsibility to get your child into school on time **EVERY** day.

There are 67 children who have 100% attendance since September - thank you so much for valuing your child's education and ensuring your child is in school every day.

From last half terms data - the year groups who have the worst attendance are Year 3 and Year 5.

Remember to always email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

Poppy Appeal...

Thank you all so much for your incredibly generous donations in support of this important cause. We are delighted to share that a total of **£1,500** has been raised by High Ash. This is an amazing achievement and a reflection of the kindness and community spirit within our school.

Thank you once again for your support.

We are not at school tomorrow as it is an INSET day - so enjoy the long weekend and we will see you on Monday.

[Kate Goodger](#)

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