



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 5th December 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We have certainly started to feel Christmassy! We had a lovely walk this morning to get our tree, albeit a little muddy! It is always a wonderful school tradition which the children really enjoy - especially the biscuits! A massive thank you to Alders Farm fisheries who welcome us every year and donate the tree to school. This afternoon the hall has been bursting with Christmas crafts that the children have made for each other. Thank you to everyone who came to support the children and listen to their Christmas songs.



Santa Dash

All the children will be taking part in a Santa Dash next week, **Friday 12th December** to raise funds for the Florence Nightingale Hospice. They will be given their Santa hats on Thursday. Please send your child into school with their trainers and a change of shoes. To donate, please click on the JustGiving link below:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/high-ash-4?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

We met Bill and Florrie the Bear from Florence Nightingale on Thursday, where they told us all about the amazing work the hospice does.



Reminder - 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

Seats are limited to 3 seats per family.

Please book by Wednesday 10th December.

Book and pay for your seats via your MCAS app selecting Products.

Reminder - 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.

If you have not yet paid your contribution but would like your child to join us, please email the office providing your consent and confirm if you will be happy to pay towards the cost of this trip at some point in January. You can pay via your MCAS app within Trips. Thank you for your support.

Learning highlights this week...

Acorns

This week the children have been exploring the story 'The Christmas Pine'. We have been talking about the tradition of having a Christmas tree and how some of us have already got our trees up in our homes and how some of us will be putting them up soon. We also have been using this story to get us ready for the Christmas tree walk and to understand why we go on the walk.

We were lucky enough to be visited by an author, Lou Treleven on Wednesday! She shared two of her stories with us that were very festive! One was all about Christmas elves and the other was all about an amazing Christmas pudding and its crumbs.



We also made decorations to sell at the Christmas Fayre! They were really tricky to make but we are very proud of them! We used our fine motor skills and had to make them in small steps. First, we stuck together three lolly sticks to make a triangle. We used what we have learned about triangles to make them, we know they have three sides and three corners. Then we had to wait for them to dry. After that, we decorated them by winding glittery pipe cleaners on them, topping them with a star and putting a ribbon through them so that they hang up ready to go on Christmas trees.



Acorns have been rehearsing lots this week! We have gotten used to getting on and off the stage, standing for our songs and sitting when we need to. We have been learning when we need to come on to the stage and trying to say our lines at the right time and loud enough to be heard. We have also been trying to remember to sing our songs

with confidence and using our actions. It has been lots of fun! We are looking forward to trying to rehearse with our costumes on.

Acorn Reminders

- Thank you to everyone who has sent in their costumes ready for our Nativity. If you have not yet, please ensure you send it in as soon as you can.
- Next week we will be looking closely at the real reason we celebrate Christmas, Jesus being born! We will be reading a picture book about 'The Nativity' as our story of the week. You could talk to your child about the story of the Nativity in preparation. We will also be looking more at Christmas traditions; what people do when they celebrate Christmas. You could talk to your child about your family traditions so they are ready to share and talk about it and so they can compare their traditions with other people.

Year One and Two

This week has been jam-packed with rehearsals and Christmas Crafts and we have even managed to squeeze in some learning too! Chestnut Class took over the Ash Tree to create our Chocolate Christmas puddings to sell at the Christmas Fair. It was very messy but we had lots of fun melting and stirring and we will be writing the recipe and method using commands in our English lessons next week. Cherry Class got crafty and used their beautiful colouring skills to make Christmas tree decorations and Apple Class have been carefully creating Hot Chocolate reindeers - we can't wait to try them! We were all excited for the Christmas tree walk this morning. We have been putting our geography skills into practice by plotting the route to Alders Farm Fishery on an Ordnance Survey map and were busy spotting Human and Physical features as we walked to the woods.



On Wednesday we welcomed a children's author, Lou Treleven into school and we were so excited to listen to her read us two of her favourite Christmas books. The children were able to ask her lots of questions about the writing process and we hope that they will be inspired to write their own stories. Thanks for organising the visit Mrs Derham. Rehearsals are in full swing for our 'Big Little Nativity', please do keep practicing your lines.



Year 1/2 Reminders

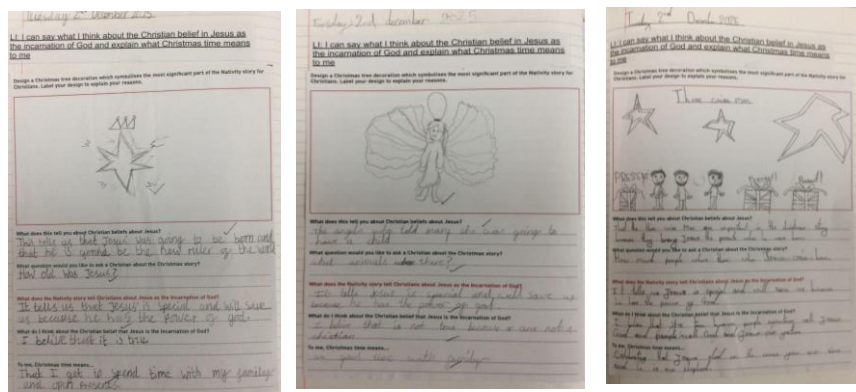
- All children to bring in a spare pair of trainers/shoes for PE on Tuesdays.
- Thank you to everyone who has been practicing their lines! Please help us by ensuring all lines are learnt by Monday 8th.
- Costumes should now be in school. If you are still unsure about your child's costume please do just send an email or speak to any member of the KS1 team
- 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 Three and Four

This week, in preparation for the Christmas Craft Fayre, we made our wonderful crafts! Hawthorn class have been making salt dough decorations to dazzle on all of your Christmas trees. We can't wait for you all to see them!



In our RE lessons we have been learning about what each Christmas symbol means to Christians and whether it is the most important to them. We have designed our own religious Christmas decoration and explained the meaning behind it. To finish our lesson, we thought about what Christmas means to us personally.



During our science lessons, we have been learning all about forces and magnets. This week we were identifying the poles on magnets and which poles would attract each other and repel each other. We did this by testing out different types of magnets. We then drew a diagram of magnets attracting and repelling each other.

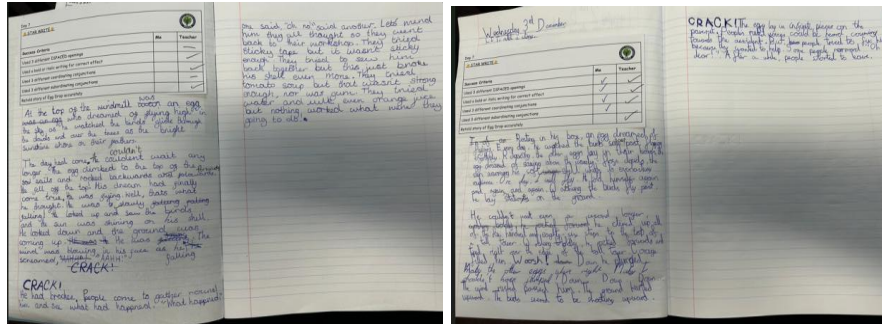


Year 3/4 Reminders

- 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. **Next week is our final swimming lesson.**
- 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

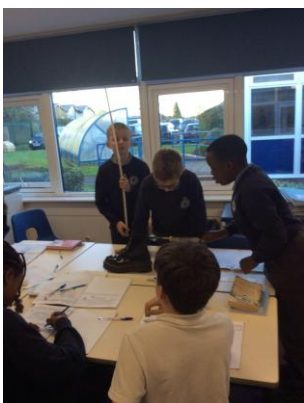
This week in English, the children have continued their work retelling the story of 'Egg Drop' by Mini Grey. Our star words were: glide, plunged, hurtled, muted, courage and spirit which the children learned the definitions for and included in their work along with conjunctions (both coordinating and subordinating), organisational devices and bold/italic writing for emphasis. We've been delighted with the finished 'star write'. Next time you're in school, take a moment to look at our writing display in the hall - it's fantastic! Here's some super work from Ethan and Mila in Oak class:



In Computing this week, we focussed on grouping objects. This allowed us to manipulate the grouped objects as a single unit, making it easier to move, resize, or rotate them together. We recapped our skills of colouring objects and inserted backgrounds - which we had to send to the back otherwise our sheep wouldn't have been visible!



In PSHE this week, we had great discussions about the difference between direct and indirect bullying. We stood on one side of the classroom or the other to make our decision about various scenarios read out to us. We had mini debates about some examples - name calling behind someone's back, taking a lunch box out of someone's locker etc. We clarified that all of the incidents discussed are unkind but only bullying if they are repeated several times.



In Science, we were measuring the force of friction, created by different shoes. We recorded the data in a table and measured that the shoes which had the biggest 'tread' (measured in mm) also required the greatest amount of force to move it (measured in Newtons).

This week has also been our assessment week. Well done to all the children for completing their tests, we understand it's never easy at the end of such a busy term!



Year 5/6 Reminders

- On the morning of **Tuesday 9th December from 9.30-12.00pm**, 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 parent volunteers to walk with us and help escort the children that morning and would welcome your support.** Please email the office if you are able to help. Thank you.
- Our reading text after half term will be 'Poetry for Kid's: William Shakespeare. We would love it if you are able to purchase this copy for your child to use in lessons
- If you purchased a copy of 'The Star of Kazan' and would like to donate it to school to use in future, please let us know.

- During the final week, we will be watching a Christmas movie. We will either watch *The Grinch* (2000), *Elf* or *Arthur Christmas*. As two of these movies are rated PG, we ask that you inform us if you **DO NOT** want your child to watch *The Grinch* or *Elf*. **Please email the office if you DO NOT want your child to watch either of these movie options.** Thank you.

🔔 Design Santa's Sleigh Competition! 🔔

Your child is invited to design and build a sleigh for Santa – ready to help him deliver presents around the world!

There are 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!

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!

The Christmas Post-box

For those children wishing to send a Christmas card, we encourage them to use the Christmas post-box located in the school library. Children can put their cards in the post-box and these will be distributed daily. To help speed up the process, please ensure you write both the recipient's name and class (if known). Thank you.



Christmas Story Time with Lou Trelevan - Wed 3rd Dec

We loved welcoming bestselling local author and storyteller Lou Trelevan to High Ash. Lou spent the morning with Chestnut, Cherry, Apples and Acorns Class, alongside our Reading Ambassadors, to get them into the Festive spirit with her stories, 'The Christmas Crumb' and 'Believe in Your Elf'.

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

Book in Leighton Buzzard has organised 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.



Star Writers

Well done to our brilliant star writers. Everyone was keen to show what clever writers they are, proudly reading aloud their work to each other. Across the school, handwriting is amazing. In addition, the descriptive language that is being used is so impressive - I recommend taking a look when you get the chance!

Reflections this week...

This week we have started looking at what Advent means. With the children we talked about how Advent is not just about waiting, it's about doing something while we wait! It's about being ready for Jesus. We thought about how Advent is our time to be the best, kindest, most helpful people we can be. This week our reading has been from the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 9.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 96%. Remember to always email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

St Luke's Church Services, Stoke Hammond...

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December, 10.00am-3.00pm - Christmas Tree Festival in the church
(Contact Hazel on 01525 270404 for more details)

Sunday 7th December at 4pm - Christingle Service.

- Want to find out what Christingle's all about?
- Been before and want to return again?
- Come and join us and receive a Christingle (orange decorated with a candle and sweets) as a gift

The service is aimed at children but open to all, so feel free to invite your neighbours!

For more information contact Diane 01525 270409 or Harry 07773065271

The collection from this service will be donated to The Children's Society (Reg no 221124)

Advent windows in Great Brickhill...

Once again there will be a trail of Advent windows in Great Brickhill this year. The windows will be lit up one by one, **starting today until the end of December. The trail will end at the Church on Christmas Eve.** Together they will create a lovely walk around the village over the festive season. **Please see the map attached with the newsletter.**

Diary dates for next week commencing 8th December...

Wednesday 10th, 1.45-2.30pm - Year 5/6 Choir members at Lindens Care Home

Thursday 11th, 11.00-12.00pm - Year 6 Christmas Cracked Event in school

Friday 12th - Christmas Jumper Day followed by Christmas Lunch

Friday 12th December, 2.10pm - F/KS1 Star Assembly, Invite only. Doors open at 2.00pm

Friday 12th December, 2.55pm - KS2 Star Assembly, Invite only. Doors open at 2.45pm

Have a fantastic weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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