



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12th December 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

It has been a busy week in school with our younger children practising their nativities and the older children working hard to showcase what they have learnt over this half term. I would like to thank Maria, Noah, Josephine and Georgia for playing the piano for us in our reflections yesterday and today. It is lovely to see how their musical talents are progressing. We have loved today, seeing all the children in their Christmas jumpers, participating in the Santa Dash and then enjoying their delicious Christmas lunch. We have to thank Michelle and Lizzie for cooking over 260 covers! Also, a huge thank you to Vicky and Mrs Kerr for then doing all the washing up!



Staffing update...

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Ward who is our Family Liaison Officer at the end of this term. Mrs Ward has been with us for nearly two years and has secured a role working as a support worker in Social Care. We wish her all the best. We are now advertising for a new Family Liaison Officer and will be interviewing in the new year.

Christmas Craft Fair...

Thank you all for your wonderful support last Friday, 5th December. We had a fantastic day, beginning with the Christmas Tree Walk in the morning and followed by the Craft Fair in the afternoon. The children sang beautifully and their handmade crafts were a delight. Thanks to your generosity, we raised just over **£407** towards HASA school fundraising. We are so grateful for your continued support.

Santa Dash...

Well done to everyone who took part in the Santa Dash today. It was a great success and quite the sight, seeing over 200 Santa's running around the school field! A huge thank you to our JLT, who marshalled the event and encouraged all runners to keep going! Don't forget that this event was to fundraise for the charity of Florence Nightingale Hospice, who raise money to support those in their final days. They provided us with the brilliant Santa hats and would love your donations. Please follow this link: https://www.justgiving.com/page/high-ash-4?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

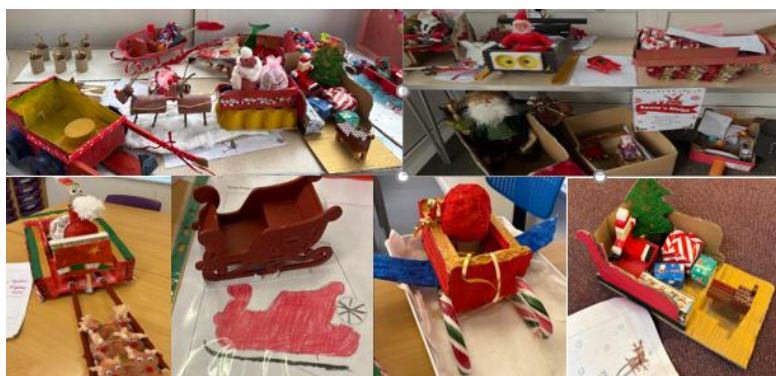
Thank you for your support this Christmastime.



Santa Sleigh D&T Competition...

We've been absolutely blown away by the incredible response to our Santa Sleigh competition. The creativity, effort, and engineering skills on display have been truly amazing, and it's going to be quite a challenge for Mrs Goodger and Mrs Fox to judge all the fantastic entries!

A huge well done to all our High Ash engineers for their impressive designs and enthusiasm. We can't wait to share the winners with you next Thursday.



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
- KS1 Nativity evening performances, please bring your child back to school at 5.00pm. The children will go to their classroom to get ready, parents with seats booked can take their seats in the hall.

Seats are limited to 3 seats per family.

Please book by Monday 15th December.

Seats must be booked in advance and sadly we cannot allow entry if you have not booked a seat.

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

Reminder - Christingle Services...

Thursday 18th December at 1.45pm, KS2 Carol Service at St Mary's Church. Please send your child into school with an orange on Tuesday 16th December so they can make their Christingles.



Friday 19th December at 1.45pm, F/KS1 Christingle Service at St Mary's Church joined by our choir club members. Please send your child into school with an orange on Wednesday 17th December so they can make their Christingles.

Please click on the links below to reserve your seat(s) at the church services and to confirm if you will be helping to walk the children to and from the church. We are leaving school at 1.30pm.

KS2 Carol Services - <https://forms.gle/x7vhn3i8o4DTcNSr6>

F/KS1 Christingle Service - <https://forms.gle/C6SBeSzWACALZ1xh8>

2026 Residential...

It may seem a little early to be thinking about next year's residential but all parents/carers of children in Year 5 should have received a letter about the 2026 residential. We will be visiting Culmington Manor in Shropshire again, from Monday 5th to Friday 9th October, 2026. If your child would like to attend the residential we ask that you give your consent and pay a **£50** non-refundable deposit via your MyChildAtSchool account by **Friday 19th December, 2025** by visiting the **Products tab in MCAS**. We estimate the cost for the residential to be around £510 per child, depending on how many children participate. Once we know the number of children attending we will confirm the final balance as soon as we return to school in January 2026. The balance can then be paid in 6 instalments and approximately £77 monthly, between January and June 2026. The final balance can be paid in full if you wish, but all payments will need to be made by the end of June 2026 as we need to pay the full amount 10 weeks before we travel. We understand this is a big financial commitment in the current times, but the children do gain so much from attending, so we would encourage all children participate - it is an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives!



Learning highlights this week....

Acorns

Acorns did so well on the Christmas tree walk last week! We had explored the story 'The Christmas Pine' and it really helped the children to understand why we were on the walk and why we were excited about the tree being cut down. Thank you to all the Acorn parents who were able to come and help us on the walk.

This week we have looked at Christmas traditions, our own and those from around the world. We used our own decorations to decorate the Christmas tree in our home corner and read the story 'Christmas around the world'. We compared our Christmas traditions with those of Russia, Australia and Mexico. It was so interesting to find out what we do the same and what makes us different at Christmas time.



We were lucky enough to be invited by St Luke's Church in Stoke Hammond to participate in their Christmas tree display in the church. The theme this year was pantomime. We decided to choose the Cbeebies Panto 'The Snow Queen' as our inspiration. The children watched the panto in class and then we created decorations for our themed tree. Acorns created icicles using crumpled up foil, Apple Class created crowns and Cherry and Chestnut created snowflakes. We were very proud of our tree! You can go to see it and the other trees decorated by groups in the Stoke Hammond community church.



Acorn Reminders

- Next week we will be exploring the story 'Stick man' and talking about Father Christmas. You may want to talk about the magic of Christmas and the importance of the celebration with your child in preparation.
- Our Nativity performance is next Tuesday afternoon! Please ensure you have practised your child's lines and we look forward to seeing you there.
- We are also singing in church for the Christingle service on Friday next week, please ensure you have sent in an orange for your child to use to make their Christingle on Wednesday 17th December.

Year One and Two

Last Friday's Christmas Tree Walk doubled up as a Geography field trip for KS1 and following our walk we have used Ordnance Survey maps to trace our path and write instructions using directional language and symbols to represent the human and physical features in Great Brickhill. The children loved having 'hands on' experience of map reading and have been using it to extend their learning in the classroom. This week our English has been focussed on Instructional Writing and again we used our real-life experiences of creating cakes and crafts for the Christmas Fair to write a list of instructions using 'bossy' (imperative) verbs.



In Maths, Year 1 have started their unit on geometry and have been investigating the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. It would be lovely for the children to extend their learning at home, so please do join them on a 'shape hunt' around the house or on the way to school! Year 2 have been impressing Mrs Barrasford and Miss Bright with their resilience and determination when adding two 2-digit numbers that cross a ten (exchanging). It's tricky stuff just before Christmas but Year 2 have been working incredibly hard with fabulous results!



We are all so excited for our Nativity performances next week - it will be alright on the night! If you have any questions regarding tickets, costumes or logistics please do speak to any member of the KS1 team or email the office.

Year 1/2 Reminders

- All children to bring in a spare pair of trainers/shoes for PE on Tuesdays.
- Christingle Service in Church on Friday afternoon. Please bring in an Orange on Wednesday 17th December
- Please spend the weekend practicing your lines!

Year Three and Four

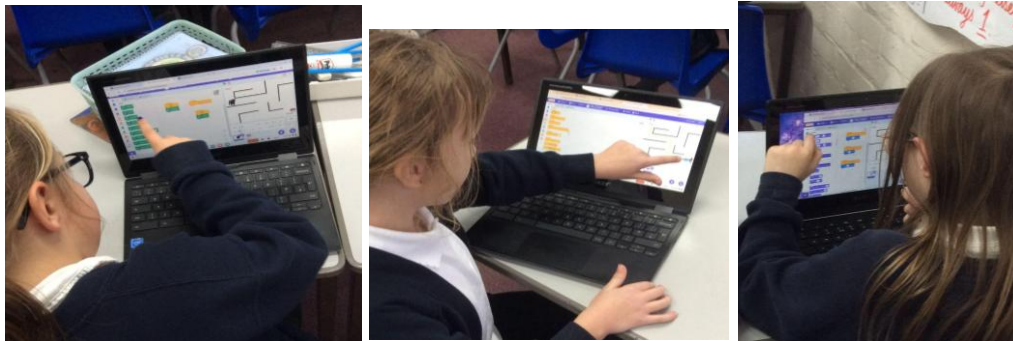
In Geography this week, the children carried out fieldwork around the school grounds. They used maps to identify symbols and locate different areas before searching for a variety of rocks outdoors. The children recorded where each rock was found and later returned to the classroom to classify them as metamorphic, sedimentary or igneous. They are really becoming fantastic geographers, confidently applying all of their fieldwork and map-reading skills.



In Year 3, the children have begun their new topic: Multiplication and Division. This week, they have been exploring *equal groups*, and today they moved on to working with *arrays*. Using counters, the children created their own arrays and discovered that each one can represent two different multiplication facts. They then recorded their learning by writing both the abstract multiplication equations and the matching repeated addition. The children have really enjoyed the practical aspect of this learning and are becoming much more confident in representing multiplication in different ways.



In our Computing lesson, we used all of our knowledge about coding to move our sprite through a maze. We started off by picking a sprite, resizing and moving it. We then moved onto creating movement and event blocks for each movement the sprite would make to navigate through the maze, all while leaving a line of pen behind it!



In Music, we performed our ostinatos which we have learnt are repeating rhythms. We used different note lengths and instruments to build texture. We based our ostinatos on different parts of a river and considered our dynamics with the source being piano (soft) and the middle course being forte (strong).

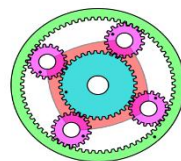
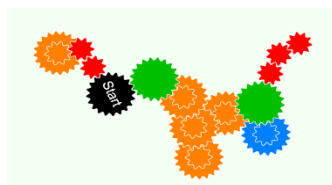


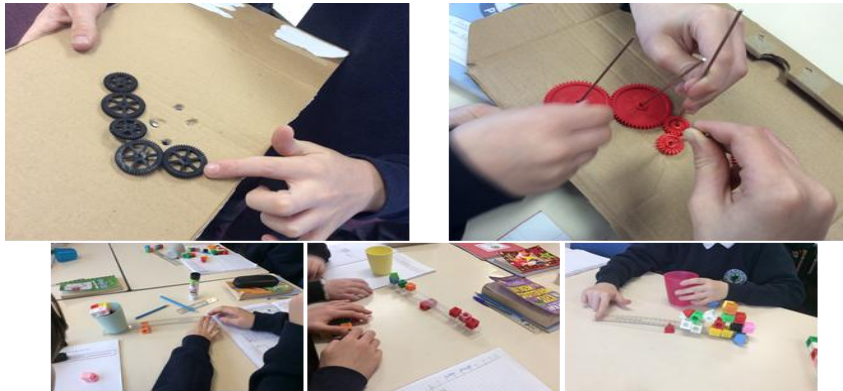
Year 3/4 Reminders

- During the final week, we will be watching a Christmas movie. We will either watch *The Grinch* (2018), *Nativity* or *Arthur Christmas*. They are all rated U.

Year Five and Six

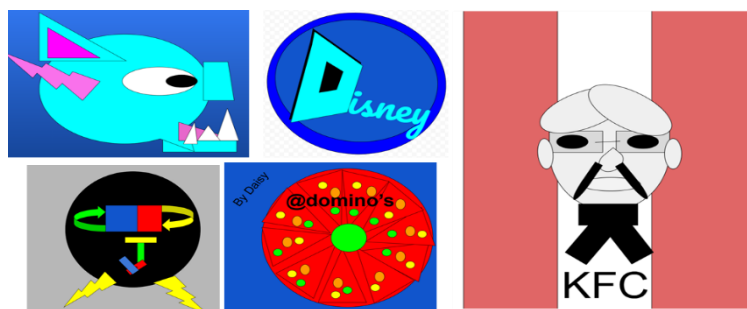
This week, in Science, we used investigated gears (simulations online as well as hands-on equipment)...





We also looked into levers - seeing whether the positioning of the fulcrum made a difference to the effort needed to lift the load.

In Computing, we created logos for businesses that we might run in the future! We combined our skills from the sequence of lessons over the last few weeks. These include copying, pasting, rotating, resizing, recolouring, grouping, sending to back/front etc.



In PSHE, we worked collaboratively to decide what brings us the most happiness, with the majority of children saying 'family' as their most important thing. However, we then watched a video about children working on cocoa farms in Ghana and recognised that children in developing countries have different priorities in regards to what makes them happy, such as clean water and an education.

On Thursday, Year 6 enjoyed their Christmas Cracked experience with the local church organisation, Bridgebuilder Trust, and the wonderfully entertaining Professor Nutty. The children took part in lots of fun, Christmas-themed activities and games focused on the story of Christmas from the Bible. They confidently shared their knowledge and also learnt many new and interesting facts. The children were fantastic examples of our High Ash PROUD principles throughout the entire visit.



Year 5/6 Reminders

- Our reading text after half term will be 'Favourite Poems: 101 Children's Classics.' 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.

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.



Star Writers

A huge well done to Bethany, Mila, Arlo and Ruan for being our star writers this week. It was wonderful to read their retelling of the humorous story 'Egg Drop'. They were able to weave in elements to engage the audience suitably, such as, bold or italic lettering and varying their sentence openers.

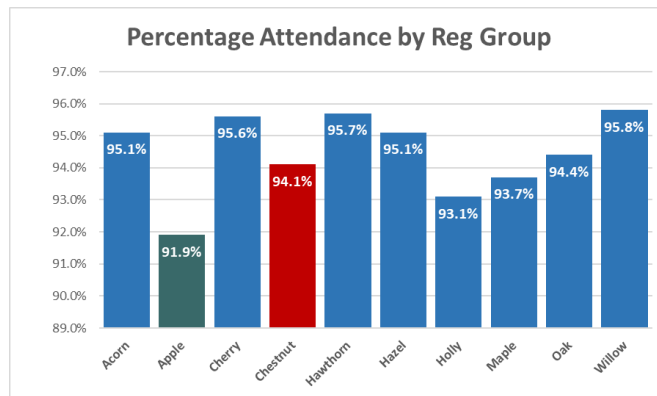
Reflections this week...

This week we thought about whether there is a difference between joy and happiness. We discussed that some people think that happiness depends on what's happening and joy is something deeper – it stays even when things aren't perfect. At Christmas, Christians believe joy isn't just about what we get, but about what we are given. This week we looked at the bible reading from Luke 2:10-11: *But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.* The children thought about how joy grows when it is shared and thought about what they could do this Christmas to bring joy to others.

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.

Congratulations to Cherry and Hawthorn classes who have the best attendance this term across the whole school. We have **58** children out of 248 with **100% attendance** - well done to all of these children and their families!



Autumn Term Clubs...

All clubs have now finished for this term with the exception of the following external run clubs:
 Monday - Filmmaking and Dance with Eve
 Wednesday and Friday - Art Clubs

Spring Term 2026 Clubs - Years 1-6...

We are delighted to be offering you 2 new additional clubs next term below:

Magical Maths - We are delighted to announce that Magical Maths Clubs will be returning to High Ash School. The club provider visited our school yesterday to deliver a promotional assembly for all children in Years 1-6. Following this assembly, the children will have taken home a booking flyer with full details on how to sign up. We are sure the children will be amazed and inspired by the magical maths tricks and activities demonstrated. These clubs are a wonderful way to boost your child’s enjoyment and confidence in maths through fun, engaging and challenging games, puzzles and activities.

Music and Movement - We are very excited to be welcoming Mrs Holland, a High Ash parent, professional violinist and experienced teacher to High Ash. She will be running a Breakfast Club on Monday’s from 8.15-8.45am to years 1-3 children and will teach musicianship classes using singing and movement games and exercises to learn about rhythm, pitch, phrase, form, dynamic, notation and more! Please see the leaflet attached for full information and how to book.

All existing clubs that have run this term will continue next term. If you wish your child to continue with any of the clubs they participated in this term, you will need to re-book. The full clubs list and booking flyers can be viewed via our website by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.highashschool.co.uk/page/?title=Clubs&pid=616>

Please ensure you book your child’s place in their chosen club(s) by **Friday 2nd January**.

Diary dates for next week commencing 15th December...

Tuesday 16th December, 2.00pm, doors open at 1.40pm - F/KS1 Nativity
 Tuesday 16th December, 5.30pm, doors open at 5.00pm - KS1 Nativity
 Wednesday 17th December, 2.00pm, doors open at 1.40pm - KS1 Nativity
 Wednesday 17th December, 5.30pm, doors open at 5.00pm - KS1 Nativity
 Thursday 18th December, 1.45pm KS2 Carol Service at Church. Leaving school at 1.30pm
 Friday 19th December, F/KS1 Christingle Service at Church. Leaving school at 1.30pm
Friday 19th December - PM Wraparound Care finishes at 5pm.

END OF TERM

Have a fantastic weekend.

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger
 Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk