



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 16th January 2026

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

The choir did a fantastic job representing the school at the Young Voices concert at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham. It was a truly unique opportunity for the children to perform with a professional conductor and singers as part of a massive 6,000-strong choir—an experience very few can say they've had! Our students' behaviour was excellent, and they sang brilliantly throughout the event. I am already looking forward to hearing some of their repertoire again at our own music concert later this half-term. Finally, a huge thank you to Mrs Gray for her tireless work with the choir, and to Mrs Barrasford, Mrs Benson, and Mrs Monk, who accompanied the children on Monday; without their dedicated help, this trip could not have gone ahead.



Music Concert...

We are delighted to announce that our annual Music Concert will be held on **Thursday 12th February** this year. By moving the event from the summer to the Spring term, we hope to enjoy the performances before the busy end-of-year schedule begins.

The auditions have now taken place, and we were incredibly impressed by the talent and courage shown by all the children. We are pleased to share that **everyone who auditioned has made it through** to perform in the concert! Whether they are singing or playing an instrument—as soloists, duets, or groups—the children have shown great dedication.

While performing on stage can be daunting, there is still plenty of time to practice, and we know our school community will be wonderfully supportive. We are very much looking forward to seeing their hard work pay off in February!

Foundation - See Us Shine...

Our next **See Us Shine morning** will be held on **Friday 23rd January at 9.00-9.30am**. This is an opportunity for you to come in to visit our classroom and engage in learning through play with your child. You will be able to

explore the indoor and outdoor classroom with your child and see how their confidence has grown since starting in Acorns. If you have yet signed up to attend, please click on the link below:
<https://forms.gle/wAeYsx27PoMSAWT49>

Learning highlights this week....

Acorns

Last week the children had a fantastic time at the Goldilocks and the three bears panto! It was so exciting getting to sit in the second row from the stage, being so close to the front meant we got to enjoy an amazing view of the characters and the stage. We were wowed by the acts that were on, such as a magician and some fabulous acrobats from Timbuctu. The children also enjoyed their ice creams at the interval, they were delicious! The children also loved being on the bus, we sang the 'wheels on the bus' song whilst travelling. All of the Acorn class children listened and behaved so well, they made us very proud.

This week we have moved onto the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have planted our own beans in sandwich bags and taped them to the window so we can watch how they grow and change over time. We also talked about the parts of plants, the flower, the stem, the leaves, the roots, and what their function is. Outside we created a diagram of the parts of a plant as well as reviewing why plants need each part.



Inside we completed a labelling activity where we stuck the parts of plants in the right place and talked about what the plant needs them for. The children used their scissor and gluing skills as well as what they know about plants to complete the task.

Acorn Reminders

- Please continue to send in boxes and bits for our Engineering area, we are looking at joining materials in different ways next week so the more the better for the children to use.
- Please ensure you send in waterproofs for your child to use as we will go out in all weathers where possible.
- See us Shine morning for parents on Friday 23rd January from 9.00am.

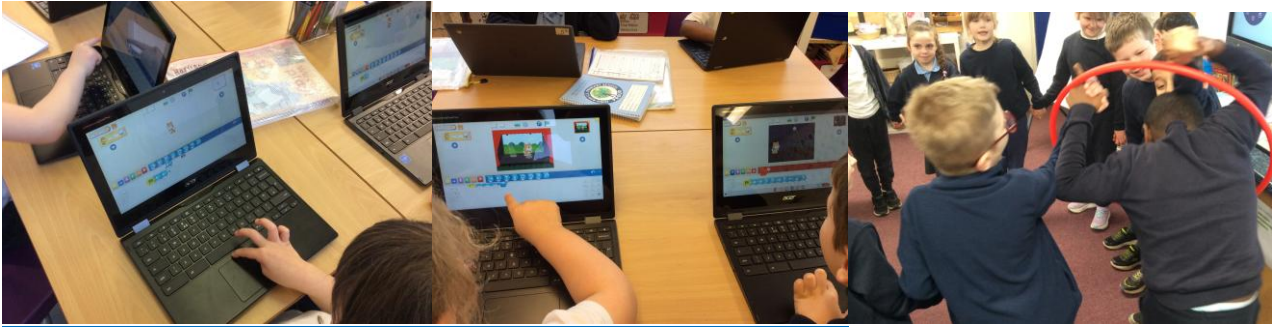
Year One and Two

KS1 has been developing their scientific skills while learning all about plants and their lifecycle. The children have been *working scientifically* by planting their own seeds and carefully observing how they grow over time. They are keeping a simple diary to record changes, such as when shoots first appear and how the plants change each week. This will help them practise making observations, talking about what they notice and using new scientific vocabulary.



Year 1 have been developing their computing skills and are becoming more confident with logging in independently. They are showing great perseverance while learning to enter their details and access programs by themselves. Apple Class have also begun the early stages of coding using *ScratchJr*. They have been learning how to program simple

instructions to move a sprite in different directions, helping them understand how sequences and commands work. The classroom buzzed with excitement as the children shared ideas and expressed their amazement at what they were doing. In RE we have started to look at our big question, 'Who is God to Jews?' and the children have been thinking about the promises we make and how they are based on 'trust'. Year 2 really enjoyed playing a 'Circle of Trust' game and there were a lot of giggles as we tried to get a hula hoop around our class without breaking a circle of joined hands!



Year 1/2 Reminders

- Diaries and reading books in school every day please.
- We are in need of cereal boxes to use in our D&T lessons next week.

Year Three and Four

This week we had our first violin lessons. Our teacher showed us how the violin can play happy, sad, high and low pieces of music. We learnt the correct way to hold the bow. We learnt about the positioning of our fingers and our wrist to our nose.



In Science, we were learning about reflection. We learnt that light comes from a light source and reflects (bounces off) a surface into our eyes so we can see. We were presented with four different materials: felt, paper, foil and plastic. We had to predict which material we thought was the most reflective and which we thought was the least. We then used data loggers to measure how much light, measured in lux, each material reflected.



In RE we learnt about the Sanatani belief that Brahman is one supreme deity with different aspects. We learnt about two of the aspects: Lakshmi and Ganesh. We learnt a few facts about each of these aspects and how they are worshipped or what they bless people with.

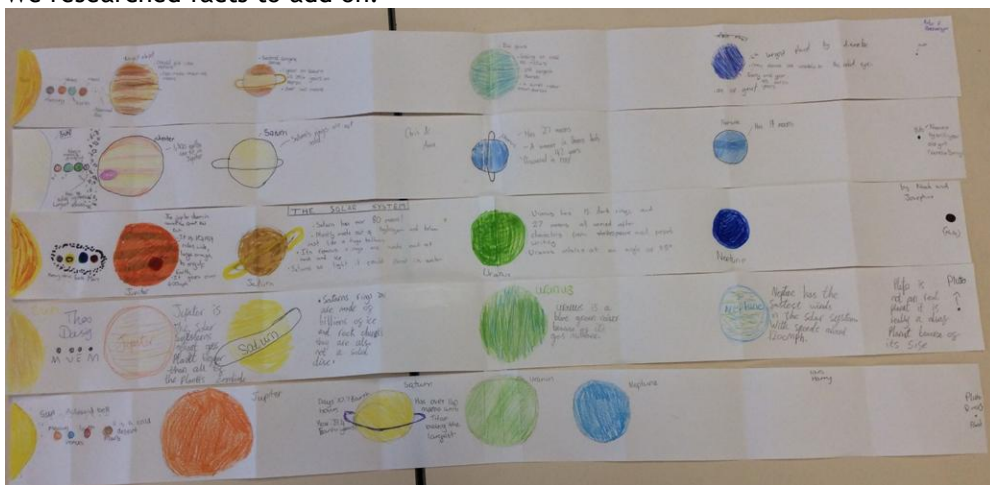


Year 3/4 Reminders

- Please send in as many rolls (toilet rolls, kitchen rolls, wrapping paper rolls) as you can for our DT!

Year Five and Six

In Science this week, we recapped the relative sizes of the planets - picturing a peppercorn, a melon, a pea, a coconut and various other fruits/veg to compare. With these objects used, the sun would have needed to be 4m across! We then considered the relative distances that these planets are from each other. We followed complicated step-by-step instructions (using some fraction knowledge) to produce these posters on a metre long strip of paper. We researched facts to add on.

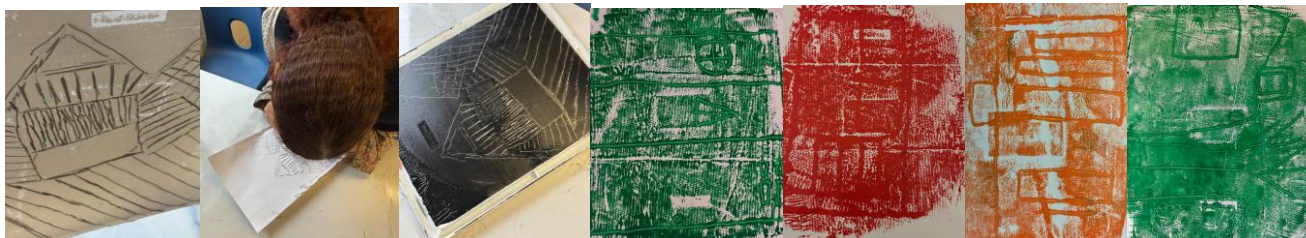


In PE, we are currently starting our unit on fitness. Our first lesson was a tough lower-body circuit, including spider man lunges, lunge jumps, squat jumps and the dreaded wall-sit! Willow class battled through. I'm sure there were a few achy legs the next day...



In Art, we are exploring the work of Zaha Hadid, who designed incredible buildings all around the world. This week, we used the houses we drew as a starting point to create printed works of art.

First, we chose a small section of our picture and enlarged it to create our design. Then we used printing ink on a flat surface and rolled it until it squeaked. We patted the ink with a paper towel to remove the excess. Next, we placed our designs on top of the ink, drawing side up. We carefully traced over our designs, making sure not to touch the paper with our hands. When we were finished, we lifted the paper to reveal our final design.



Year 5/6 Reminders

- Please remember that the Y6 leavers hoodies should only be worn for PE days.

Parent Governor Elections

We have sent a letter home this week inviting nominations to become a parent governor. Any parent with a child at High Ash is eligible to stand. We have two vacancies at the moment. If more than two parents stand for nomination then there will be an election and all parents are encouraged to cast their vote.



Becoming a parent governor is a great way to support High Ash and ultimately your child's education. It's less about running the school day-to-day and more about acting as a critical friend to the leadership team. It is a great form of professional development if you're looking to add to your CV, and many employers actively encourage employees to take on voluntary roles like this to help support their local community.

If you're interested, look out for the letter next week with details about how to stand for election or email our Chair at chair@highashschool.co.uk for more information.

Identifying Young Carers at School

We wish to raise awareness about young carers and the important role schools play in supporting them. A young carer is a child or young person who helps care for a family member with a physical or mental illness, disability, or substance misuse. This may involve carrying out practical tasks, providing emotional support or both. Every caring situation can be different.

National research shows that many young carers are not being identified in schools, meaning many children may be caring without access to vital support. By informing the school about your child's caring role, we can ensure they receive the right support which can result in a significant difference to their wellbeing, education and future opportunities.

If you believe your child/children has a caring role at home (even if you are unsure) we encourage you to let us know. You can speak to a member of staff confidentially, and together we can explore what support may be beneficial.

Please remember that identifying your child as a young carer is not about labelling; but about ensuring they are recognised, understood and given the best chance to belong, achieve and thrive at our school.

For external support; we would also recommend registering any carers within your household with Carers Bucks, the local carers support service. Once a young carer is identified, they may benefit from:

- Peer support groups and activities
- Targeted wellbeing interventions

- One-to-one support sessions
- Advice, information and guidance

You can complete a self-referral via their website, <https://carersbucks.org/>, alternatively we understand that this can be daunting and would be happy to do this on your behalf after we have spoken. In order for us to identify any child carers within our school and be able to offer them support, we ask if you could please click on the link below to complete a short google form at your earliest convenience:

<https://forms.gle/BgnmbdVpn6472Ls16>

Thank you for working with us to support the wellbeing and success of all our pupils.

Reflections this week...

The Great Big Garden Party. The world is a gift for everyone, and everyone is invited to look after it Genesis 2:15 - "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. We spoke to the children about 'to work it and take care of it' means we aren't just guests eating the sandwiches; we are the gardeners. Even the smallest child has a job to do.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94.3%. Remember to always email absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

Diary dates for next week commencing 12th January...

Friday 16th January, 9.00-9.30am - Foundation See us Shine morning for parents

Friday 16th January, 2.55pm - F/KS1 Star Assembly. Invitation only, doors open at 2.45pm.

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger
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