



# High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 23rd January 2026

*'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16*

*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

It feels as though time is whizzing by this term! Our team is working harder than ever to provide the very best education for your children. Recently, our teachers have been focusing on 'retrieval practice'—finding creative ways to help children rehearse what they've learned. This ensures knowledge sticks in their long-term memory, allowing them to build on it with confidence.

As many of you know, we are also looking forward to welcoming Ofsted back to High Ash. While we don't know exactly when they will arrive, we are incredibly proud of the improvements we have made since November 2023. When the time comes, we will be notified on a Monday morning with inspectors then visiting on the Tuesday and Wednesday. We look forward to sharing our progress with them.

### ***Music Concert...***

Auditions have now taken place for our Music Concert on the 12th February. We were incredibly impressed by the talent and courage shown by all the children. Everyone who auditioned 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. Our school choir will also be singing at the concert.

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!

The Music Concert will start at 6pm. The children will be required to be back in school by 5.30pm. All the children who auditioned along with those who belong to the school choir will be performing on the night. **If you wish to reserve seats for this concert, please click on the link below. Seats are restricted to 2 per family in the first instance:** <https://forms.gle/Vh77NxktKtFJAeZ79>

## Learning highlights this week....

### Acorns

We have had the most amazing week using the story The Three Little Pigs! We have worked on our design skills, learning how to think about and list what we will need to build our own house for the three little pigs that will stand up to our own big bad wolf test. We then drew out the design for our house and used the construction we had chosen. After that, we used a hairdryer as the big bad wolf and tried to blow the houses down! That was so exciting! It was so interesting to investigate what construction worked best and talk about what didn't work so well and what we could do to make our houses more stable next time. All of this work will help us to use our new engineering design, build and test skills in our Construction and Engineering areas in the classroom.



Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for See Us Shine today, it was so wonderful for the children to share their learning and confidence in provision with you. It was also lovely to hear all of the positive feedback from you all and for us to share the successes and progress your children are making.

### Acorn Reminders

- Next week we will be looking at the story 'The Gingerbread Man' so you could talk to your child about the story at home.
- Our Library day is Tuesday, please remember to bring the book back so we can swap them for a new one.

### Year One and Two

This week KS1 has been continuing their science investigations into Plants. There has been much excitement every morning as we check on the progress of our bean stalks and the children have enjoyed observing the changes in the seed and updating their diaries with observational drawings. This week we have seen many of the seeds split open and tiny shoots start to appear - what next?! We have also investigated the structure of plants and spent time in our outside classroom observing the progress of the daffodils and pansies we planted in our Gardening Club last term. We also took the opportunity for a bit of weeding!



In Maths Year 2 has started their new unit on Multiplication and Division ( a welcome relief from column addition and subtraction!) and we are also refreshing our knowledge of the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been recognising and making equal groups with numberlink cubes and counters to help them see the pattern of repeated addition within multiplication. We have been enjoying a fitness focus in PE with all of the teachers relishing the challenge of making the children out of breath in order to develop stamina and cardio strength.

Year 2 has enjoyed retelling the gorgeous story of 'The Great Kapok Tree' in English - we can really recommend it as a bedtime story and Year 1 has been diary writing inspired by 'Faruq and the Wiri Wiri'. We are hoping for some wonderful Star Writes on Friday



### Year 1/2 Reminders

- Please can you save all your cereal boxes for us and send them in with children next week. Our D&T projects will be underway soon.

### Year Three and Four

This week we had our second violin lesson. We were using the violins this week and understanding how to hold them under our chins. It's a very interesting experience and not the most comfortable! The children looked incredibly professional and were all very excited about using our bows to create beautiful sound!



During our computing lessons we have been learning about reading a code on turtle academy. We are looking specifically at algorithms to create repeating patterns. Using a limited code we then created letters and numbers, this was harder than it looked but our talented coders were brilliant!



Our PE lessons have been filled with skill based activities and ball control. We have been learning the basics of handball, this means we have to be accurate when shooting and passing with the ball. To do this we played team games with hoops and learned how speed does not always mean accuracy. Take a look at our fantastic action shots!



### Year 3/4 Reminders

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

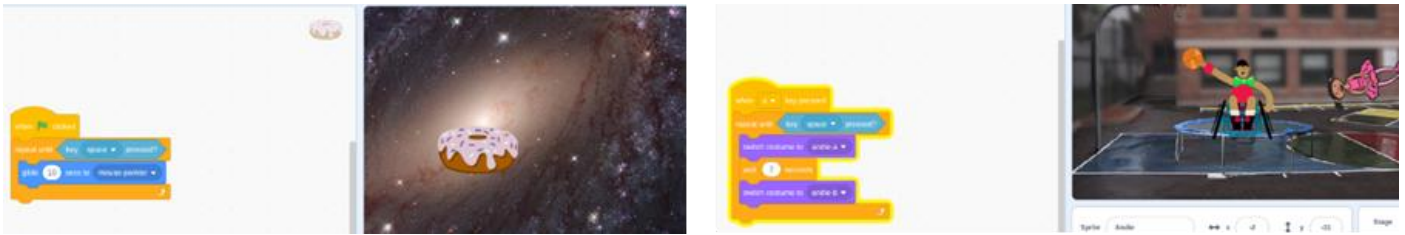
### Year Five and Six

In science this week, we have been learning all about the moon! Using Oreos, we created a visual description of the different phases of the moon as it orbits the earth. We thought about the position of the earth and the sun at various times being the reason for the amount of the moon that would be lit up as it does not produce its own light.

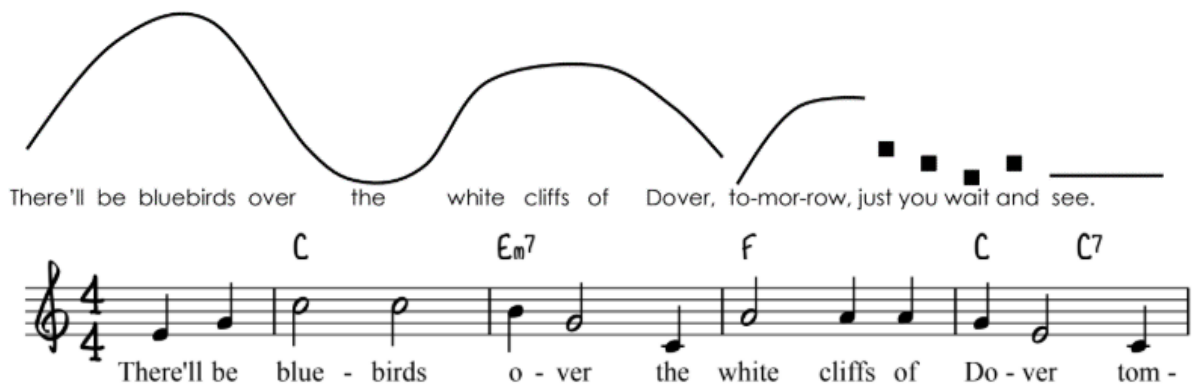
We have been historians this week too, using our skills of deduction to understand the relationship between Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII in her final days. From a selection of primary and secondary sources, we could deduce that Anne appeared to be shocked at her arrest and imprisonment whilst Henry appeared to be quite the tyrant, executing his wife so he could begin his new marriage to Jane Seymour.



In computing, we focussed on the 'repeat until' block in Scratch which is a control block that loops a set of instructions until a specified condition becomes true. Two examples here show a flying doughnut until the space bar is pressed and a continuously bouncing basketball!



In music, we have been learning the song 'The White Cliffs of Dover'. This week we have been thinking about the relative pitch of different notes and started the lesson enjoying the song 'Do Re Mi' from the Sound of Music. We went on to look at a graphic score of the 'White Cliffs of Dover' (below) and some of us looked at the sheet music to understand the pitch changes and flow of this war-time song. Needless to say, it's now a constant ear worm for the Year 5/6 teachers!



### Year 5/6 Reminders

- Please remember that the Y6 leavers hoodies should only be worn for PE days and we should be wearing our proper uniform on non PE days.
- Maple Class Assembly, Friday 30th January - All parents welcome.

### Star Writers

A huge well done to our star writers this week.

Year 3/4 had a selection, including a retell from The Snowman, winter poetry and a retell of the, somewhat fantastic, King who Banned the Dark. The figurative language that all have used has been utterly fantastic! They have also been using the skill of 'Show not Tell' which is really tricky, so well done to Harry, Sophia, Maggie, Sarah, Esmae and Sienna. Not pictured are Willow and William who were our star writers last week for their excellent work. Well done!

Year 5/6 were sharing their retelling of the opening scene of The Tempest. Through vivid description, prepositions and adverbials of time and place, Ethan, Christian and Layla accurately retold Shakespeare's work. Well done!



### Parent Governor Elections

Next Friday is the deadline for nominations to fill our Parent Governor vacancies. A letter went home earlier in January but we've included it again with this week's newsletter in case anyone missed it. 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 there will be an election and all parents are encouraged to cast their vote.



Whilst being a Governor is a voluntary position we do have the capacity to cover expenses. If you're interested in becoming a governor but wouldn't be able to afford the childcare to attend an evening meeting for example then do please get in touch with our Chair. Any concerns will be treated confidentially.

If you're interested or have any questions email our Chair at [chair@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:chair@highashschool.co.uk) for more information.

### Bootcamp with Trooper Pete

The children love their sessions with Trooper Pete on a Wednesday but why let them have all the fun! Pete runs Bootcamp sessions on a Saturday morning on our school field. The Bootcamp is an outdoor high-energy, full body session designed to build strength, stamina and confidence. Expect a mix of bodyweight drills, functional movements and team style challenges. Session can be booked via his website <https://fortitudemk.com/training-with-fortitudemk>



### Bucks Music Trust - Music Centre Open Day 31st January...

Bucks Music Trust are holding an open day at their Music Centre in Aylesbury next weekend. This is open to all ages and standards. There is no need to book, you can just turn up. There's something for all ages - including the grown-ups!

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

**COME PLAY AND SING**

**WHAT CAN I DO?**

**OPEN DAY**

**AT AYLESBURY MUSIC CENTRE**

**SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY**

**IT'S FREE!**

**NO NEED TO BOOK JUST TURN UP!**

**WALTON ROAD | AYLESBURY HP21 7ST | TEL 01494 216 055**  
[AYMUSIC@BUCKSMUSIC.ORG](mailto:AYMUSIC@BUCKSMUSIC.ORG)

**BETWEEN 9.00 - 10.15**

- ALL STANDARDS (1 TERM TO GRADE 2)
- ALL INSTRUMENTS
- ALL AGES

**9-10.30 'JUNIOR JAM'**

OPEN TO ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS (INC GUITAR & PIANO)

1 TERM TUITION TO GRADE 3

INFORMAL PLAY THROUGH AT 10.15

- PARENTS/FAMILY WELCOME

**10.45-11.45 'BIG SING'**

OPEN TO EVERYONE

ALL AGES

ALL STANDARDS

COME AND FIND YOUR VOICE

**11.50-12.15 'SENIOR SYMPHONY'**

OPEN TO ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS (INC GUITAR & PIANO)

GRADE 4-8

INFORMAL PLAY THROUGH AT 12.45

-PARENTS/FAMILY WELCOME

### Reflections this week...

This week we were looking at how important diversity is to us all by thinking about Noah's Ark - everyone has a place on the ark. This is very similar to High Ash - everyone belongs in our school and it is our responsibility to make sure this happens. Our Bible reading was from Genesis 7: 8-9: Pairs of clean and unclean, came to Noah and entered the ark.

KS2 considered principles (like our PROUD principles) that would have been expected of those entering The Ark. Here are lovely examples from 2 of the classes.

<u>Holly</u>	<u>Willow</u>
<u>N</u> o bullying <u>O</u> wning our choices <u>A</u> lways listen to others <u>H</u> onesty always	<u>A</u> - Acceptance <u>N</u> - #NoOutsiders <u>I</u> - Inclusivity <u>M</u> - Mindfulness <u>A</u> - Awareness of others <u>L</u> - Listen always

### Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94.9%.

Remember to always email [absence@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:absence@highashschool.co.uk) for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.



### Diary dates for next week commencing 26th January...

Thursday 29th January, 9.30am - Foundation Height and Weight Screening

Friday 30th January, 2.15pm - Maple Class Assembly. Parents are welcome to come! Doors open at 2.05pm

Friday 30th January, 2.55pm - KS2 Star Assembly. Invitation only. Doors open at 2.45pm

I hope you all have a good weekend,

Kate Goodger

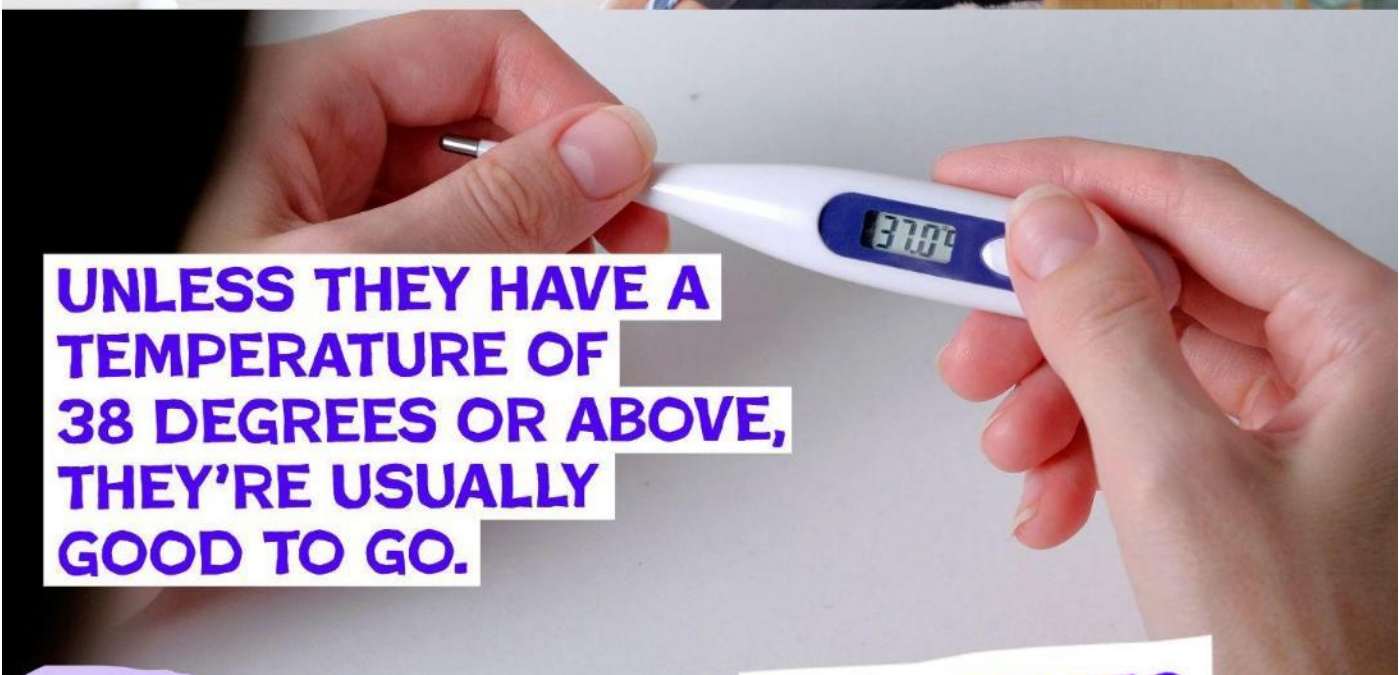
Mrs. Kate Goodger  
Headteacher

[headteacher@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@highashschool.co.uk)



**IF YOUR CHILD IS  
FEELING UNDER  
THE WEATHER,**

**IT CAN BE HARD  
TO KNOW IF YOU  
SHOULD SEND  
THEM TO SCHOOL  
OR NOT.**



**UNLESS THEY HAVE A  
TEMPERATURE OF  
38 DEGREES OR ABOVE,  
THEY'RE USUALLY  
GOOD TO GO.**

**SEARCH NHS SCHOOL  
ILLNESS GUIDANCE.**

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



HM Government

