



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 6th February 2026

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

The children have had a very busy week and I have been impressed with the learning in classes as I have walked around every day. On Monday you will be receiving a letter explaining how to book your **parent consultations for either Tuesday 3rd March or Wednesday 4th March**. These are always so useful for the children and you to hear what their teacher thinks they are doing well and to work together on the next steps they need to complete in order to move their learning forward.

Parent Governor Election...

Further to our invitation for nominees to become a parent governor, we had one nominee so there is no need for an election. I am delighted to announce that Peeya Goodwin will be joining the board as a parent governor. Peeya has a child in Foundation and has a background in financial management so I am confident she is going to be a great addition to the board.

Reminder - Music Concert...

We are looking forward to our **Music Concert on Thursday 12th 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>

Class/Group Photographs...

Whole school class group photographs will take place on **Wednesday 11th February**, starting from **9.00am**. All classes will be photographed, along with the following groups:

- Year 6 Mixed Football Squad
- Year 6 Girls' Football Squad
- Choir Club members
- Year 6 Leavers

The football squads will be provided with team kits to change into at school.

Please ensure your child comes to school smartly dressed in their **full school uniform**, including the school logo jumper or cardigan. We would also appreciate it if children could bring a **hairbrush** to tidy their appearance before the photographs are taken.

We have scheduled the class photographs early this term so that parents can benefit from the **Early Bird discount** when ordering photographs.

Thank you for your continued support.

Safer Internet Day 2026 - Tuesday 10 February...

On **Tuesday 10 February 2026**, our school will be taking part in Safer Internet Day, joining schools across the UK in promoting safe, positive and responsible use of the internet. The theme for Safer Internet Day 2026 is "Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."

Children are increasingly encountering artificial intelligence through apps, games, learning platforms and online tools, so it is important they understand how to use technology safely, responsibly and with confidence. Throughout the day, pupils will be taking part in age-appropriate activities and discussions focused on staying safe online and making sensible choices when using digital technology.

Why is Safer Internet Day important?

- The internet plays a big part in children’s learning, communication and entertainment. While it offers many positive opportunities, it can also present risks. Safer Internet Day helps children:
- Understand how to stay safe online
- Think carefully about what they share and who they talk to
- Know where to go for help if something worries them
- Build good digital habits that will support them now and in the future.

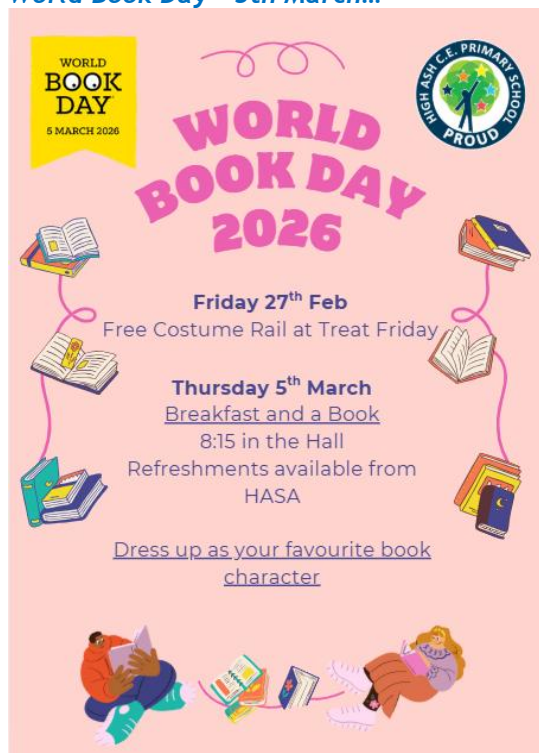
Safer Internet Day Poster Competition...

To celebrate Safer Internet Day, we are running a poster competition for all children.

What to do:

Children are invited to create a poster sharing one top tip for staying safe online. Posters need to be colourful, creative and eye-catching – the key aim is to share a clear online safety message. Please have your posters completed for **Tuesday 10th February**.

World Book Day - 5th March...



A Message from JLT

To parents and carers,

The members of JLT have been working on a mission to improve our outside space. We are fortunate enough to have a sandpit and a stage for performing but it has recently become more and more muddy. If you are a builder or know someone who is a builder and have spare time, please can you contact the High Ash office. We need your time more than anything, but your donations would be gratefully received. We have been considering materials like paving slabs, tarp to make the quiet space available to use instead of the muddy, wet and slippery quiet space. We would also like to use bark, chipping and tarmac for the children to have fun at break and lunch.

Thank you for reading this newsletter that the members of JLT have worked on.

Members of JLT

Written by Holly Class representatives

Learning highlights this week....

Acorns

This week we have had a lot of fun continuing our work on 'The Gingerbread Man'. On Monday we worked together with help from Miss Cassie to make our own gingerbread men. We weighed the ingredients and mixed them together, then we rolled out the biscuit dough and used gingerbread men cutters to cut them out and then Michelle and Lizzie from the Ash Tree were kind enough to bake them for us.



On Tuesday we came into school to find that Mrs Bird's Gingerbread Man had escaped and ran away! It even left us a video message to tease us all. We felt sad for Mrs Bird, so we created wanted posters with help from Ms Stewart to make sure everyone knew to look out for the escaped Gingerbread Man! We have also been using our small world area to practice our oracy skills and retell the story of the Gingerbread Man.



In Maths, we have been exploring the numbers up to 5, looking at counting, ordinality and cardinality. The children then built different staircases in provision using the building blocks outside and the cubes inside to show the numbers to five and how they increase by one each time.



Acorn Reminders

- Keep sending in the junk modelling resources please! They are getting used up as soon as they come in. Our Engineering area is very popular and is giving us a great opportunity to learn about designing, building and evaluating our work.
- Next week for our final week of term we will be exploring Chinese New year and the traditional story 'The Great Race'. You could look up the story and explore it with your child and find out what animal year it is going to be soon.

Year One and Two

The beans are growing! We have been so excited to see the stem of our bean stalks starting to emerge and the children are eager to update their observation diaries as often as possible. In History we have continued to investigate how toys have changed over the years. We created a toy timeline and also looked for clues in historical artefacts (teddy bears) that would help us to date them. Mrs Barrasford wasn't keen on being asked about toys from the 'olden days'!



We have enjoyed using the percussion instruments to recognise and play different sound patterns in our Music lessons - it was all very tuneful!

In RE we have discussed the importance of The Ten Commandments to the Jewish Faith and why Abraham and Moses are such special people in Judaism.

In Maths, Year 2 have been continuing to investigate multiplying and dividing by using different manipulatives and starting to connect their learning to doubling and halving while Year 1 have been impressing us with their confidence in recognising Bonds to 20.

Year 2 have been using apostrophe's for contractions in their English lessons based on 'Faruq and The Wiri Wiri Tree' and Year 1 have been enjoying combining their scientific knowledge with their wonderful English skills to create a piece of non-fiction writing based on 'The Tiny Seed'.

Our PSHE lessons have focussed on how we can recognise when we are feeling stressed or anxious and we have had some really lovely discussions about what can help to calm us down, 'snuggling pets' and 'walking in the woods' were some of the excellent advice given!



Year 1/2 Reminders

- **History - in our History lessons we are investigating how toys have changed through the years. If you have any toys from your childhood that you would be willing to send in to share with the children we'd be very grateful! (Anything from the 1950's - 2000)**
- **Homework - Activity Grids will come home on Friday 6th Feb.**

Year Three and Four

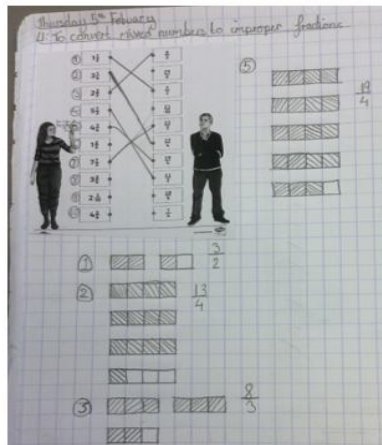
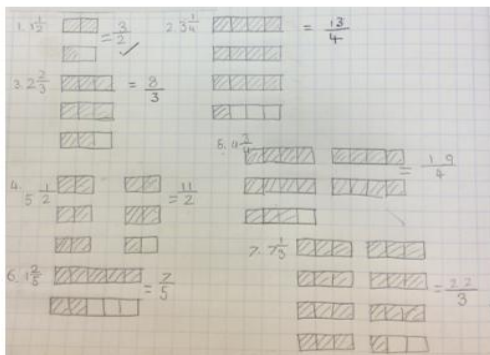
In RE this term, we have been learning about **Sanatana Dharma**. The children have explored how different aspects of their own character help others see who they really are, before learning about the deities, focusing on **Ganesha** and **Lakshmi**. This week they described who these deities are, explained why they are important to Sanatanis, and explained how they help Sanatanis learn more about God by showing different qualities and aspects of one God.



In Year 3 Maths this week, children have been learning to multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number, starting with calculations that do not require exchanging before moving on to exchanged examples. They used place value counters to partition tens and ones, helping them clearly see what is happening to each part of the number and build a secure understanding of the method.



Year 4 has been working on fractions in Maths... understanding mixed numbers and then converting mixed numbers to improper fractions. Some very very neat work was produced to prove their understanding. We had to remember that the denominator represents how many parts there are in each whole to be able to draw the number of wholes (completely shaded) and the fraction left over. Then we counted (using times tables for speedy calculating) up the number of parts shaded altogether to find the equivalent improper fraction.



1)

$1 \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2}$

2)

$3 \frac{3}{4} = \frac{15}{4}$

During Science this week, we have been looking at finding patterns in the way shadows change depending on the time of day and interpreting them. To do this, we had mini sundials and mini people to mimic the way the sun moves over us during the day. We found that at the beginning and the end of the day the shadows are longer and in the middle of the day the shadows are very short or not there at all!



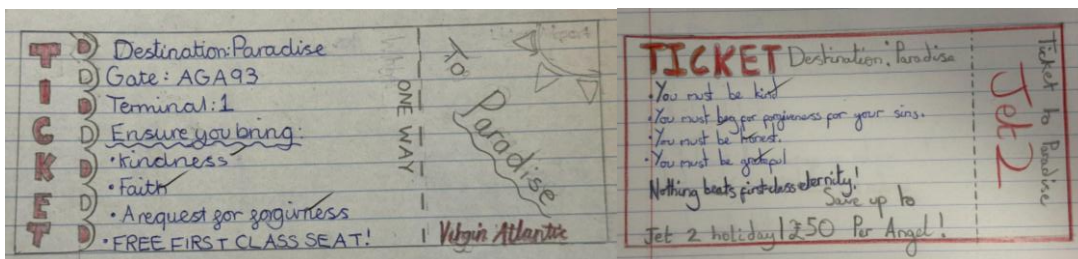
Year 3/4 Reminders

- Hawthorn Class Assembly on Friday 13th February at 2.15pm, doors open at 2.05pm. Parents Welcome!

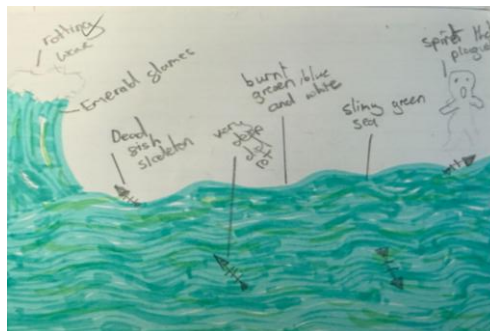
Year Five and Six

This week, the Year 6 children have been working hard completing their mock SATs. We are so impressed and incredibly proud of their efforts and determination to apply their learning and show progress, well done!

In RE, we have been considering what Christians believe they can do in order to go to heaven. After reading Matthew 25 31:46, we discussed what Jesus said would happen when people are judged on whether or not they deserve to go to heaven. Using this passage and our own discussions, we created our own 'Ticket to Paradise', consisting of things people should do in order to get to heaven, including being kind and honest, feeding the hungry and providing shelter for those who need it.

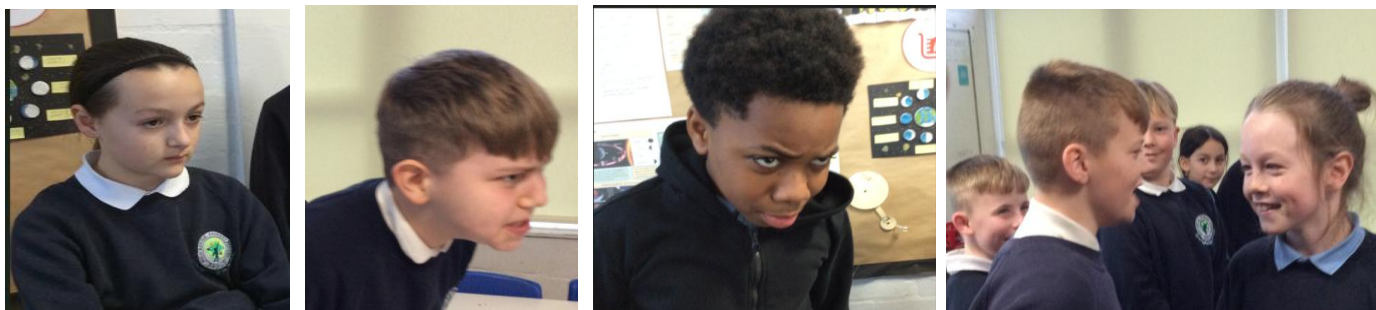


In Guided Reading, we have been studying an excerpt of the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. This has been a fantastic piece of poetry to study due to its vivid imagery and creative language. So much so, we have been able to create illustrations of how the sea is described and annotate it using language from the poem.

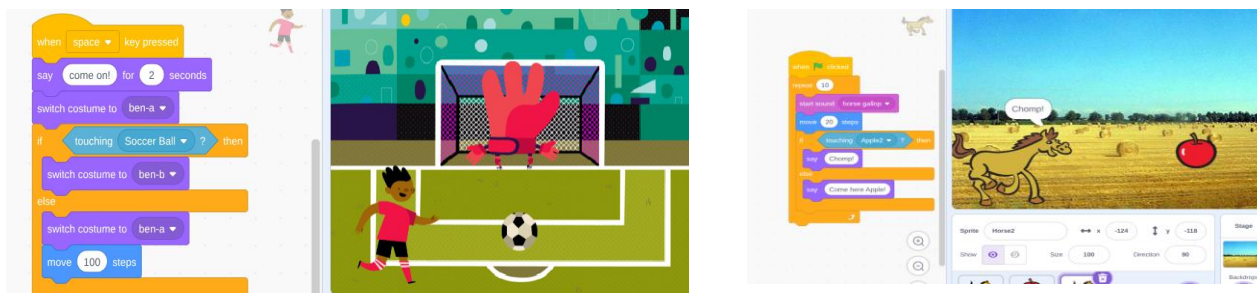


In Thursday's guided reading lesson, the children considered how the crew would have felt about the Ancient Mariner. He had shot an Albatross in the Southern Ocean, an Albatross which had led the boat into safer waters, since then, the boat had had worsening luck including running out of drinking water. The children got into character as the crew

and circled around the Ancient Mariner (Ralph) giving him evil stares and hissing the word ‘guilty’ at him (I had checked with Ralph that he wouldn’t mind!). The children then formed a Conscience Alley telling the Mariner just what they thought of him. All of this was excellent preparation for a piece of characterful writing explaining to the Mariner just why he should wear the albatross around his neck as penance for his dreadful sin.



In Computing, we focussed on using the “if... then... else” function on Scratch. When the algorithm is run, Scratch will decide which one to run based on whether the condition is true or false. We used given sequences to spot errors and debug and then created our own. In this example, the horse says, “Come here apple,” while galloping and then “Chomp!” if the apple is touched!



Year 5/6

Reminders

- Year 5 Bikeability Training scheduled in June 2026. See letter sent this week to all Year 5 parents and sign up by Wednesday 11th February. The Bikeability Training provider will not accept requests after this date.

Star Writers

Well done to our star writers this week in Year 5/6. Rafael and Yana wrote wonderful diary entries from the perspective of King Henry VIII, using language that was so accurate you would have thought he wrote it himself! In Year 3/4, Leo, Bea and Aaron were using the text ‘Oscar and the Moth’ to create a retell of the story using a variety of skills including commas in a list and ellipsis to add suspense.



Reflections this week...

This week we focussed on our eco-powers, considering whether our strength is our voice, our hands or our heart. This relates to whether we are good at speaking up, using our hands (...to plant or pick up litter) or whether we are good at cheering each other up. We each drew The Voice (a megaphone or a bird singing), The Hands (planting a small plant) or The Heart (a sun or a flower blooming) to be put together to create class quilts.

This week our Bible reading was from Corinthians 12:12. The body is one, but it has many parts. All the parts make up one body.

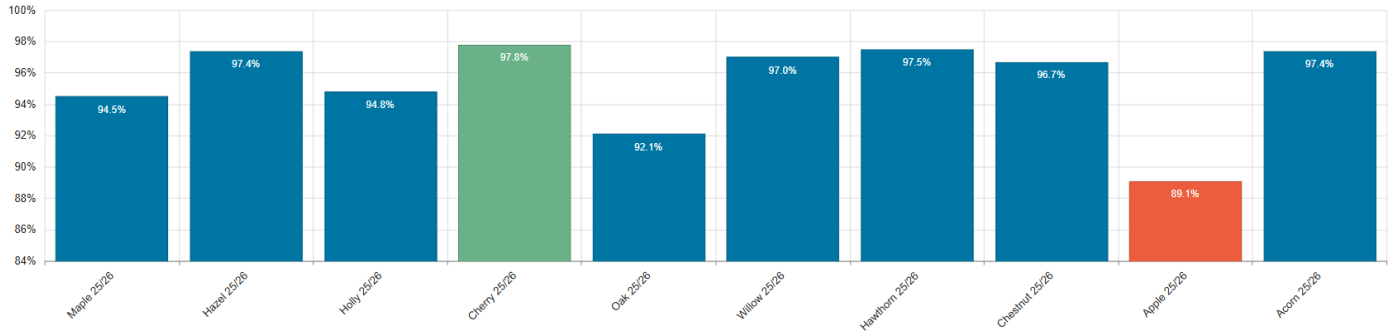


Attendance...

This week's attendance is 96.7%, which is a great improvement. Let's hope this continues – thank you all so much for your continued support in ensuring your children attend school every day.

If your child is going to be absent, please remember to email absence@highashschool.co.uk for each day your child is absent from school.

Please see below bar chart for January attendance:



Diary dates for next week commencing 9th February...

Wednesday 11th February - Class group/Team photographs

Wednesday 11th February, 2.45pm - SEND Parents Tea and Cake Event

Thursday 12th February, 6pm - Music concert

Friday 13th February, 2.15pm - Hawthorn Class Assembly. Parents welcome! Doors open at 2.05pm

Friday 13th February, 2.55pm - KS2 Star Assembly. Invitation only! Doors open at 2.45pm.

HALF TERM

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

[Kate Goodger](#)

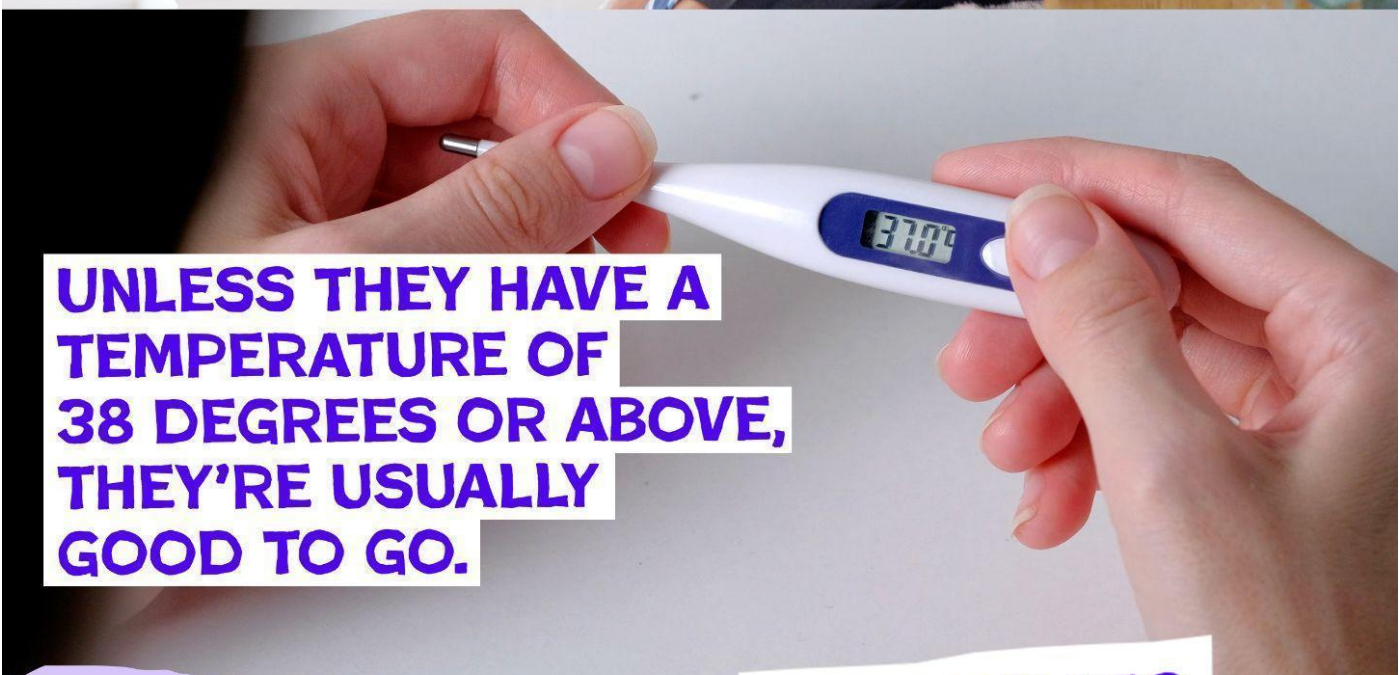
Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

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

