



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 27th February 2026

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

I have seen some brilliant writing this week, especially from Dixie - great suspense writing which is hard to believe has been written by a Year 4. She received a spontaneous round of applause from Willow Class who were also blown away with her writing talent! I have also been very impressed with the children's focus in class this week - our younger children have been really showing us what they can do in phonics and how much their reading is coming on.

Parent/Teacher Consultations - Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th March

We are looking forward to meeting with you next week for our Parent/Teacher Consultations:

- **Tuesday 3rd March** - 2:00pm-6:00pm
- **Wednesday 4th March** - 4:30pm-7:30pm

Thank you to our KS2 parents who completed the Google Form to provide a preferred one-hour time slot. This form is now closed and all parents should have received confirmation of their appointment times via email or text message through your MCAS app.

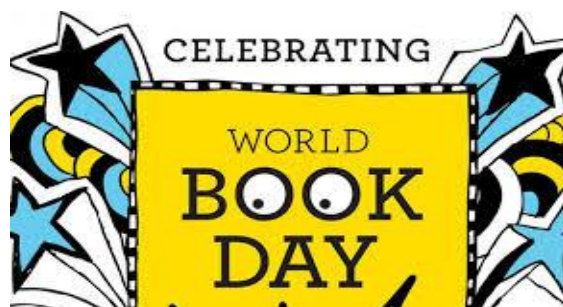
Thank you also to our F-KS1 parents who booked their appointments online via MCAS. Online bookings are now closed. If you have not yet arranged an appointment, please contact the school office and we will book this for you.

All parent consultations will be held in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you.

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March...

We are starting off the day with a 'breakfast with a book' in the hall. Parents are invited to come into the hall at **8:15am** and enjoy some HASA refreshments and pastries whilst reading with their child(ren). For catering reasons, it would be appreciated if you could please click on the link below to submit a google form confirming you will be attending with your child. Please submit the form by Tuesday 3rd March. Thank you.

<https://forms.gle/rGnf3THDAP1Qbckh9>



All children and adults are welcome to dress up for the day as their favourite book character.

National Year of Reading

2026 is the National Year of Reading. We are kicking off our celebrations with World Book Day and have many exciting things planned for the year.

We would like to introduce 'secret readers' in class and **we need your help!** If you would like to read a short story, of your choice, to your child's class, please let us know. Please contact the school office to let us know your availability over the next few weeks and into next term.

The idea will be to keep this a secret as we know children love a surprise visitor and what better for the VIP to be you! Thank you in advance for your support with this initiative.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/about-us/national-year-of-reading-2026/>



National
Year of
Reading
2026

Veg Power - Eat Them To Defeat Them



High Ash is taking part in Veg Power's 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign. You may have seen adverts on TV in the past.

For the last seven years, Eat Them to Defeat Them has been focused on improving children's vegetable consumption. Alarming 80% of children fall short of the recommended consumption levels and a third of kids are eating less than a portion per day. Poor dietary health not only impacts many aspects of children's health in the short and long term, but a proper balanced diet has been proven to improve concentration, sustain energy and improve behaviour creating the right conditions for getting the most from their education. The Veg Power programme has proved that children who take part repeatedly on average eat 60% more veg than those who don't. This year the focus is on five core veg - carrots, peas, broccoli, peppers and sweetcorn.

The children will see the posters and the veggies characters in the Ash Tree, there will be different veggies activities over the next couple of weeks and the children will get a sticker for eating their veggies. We'll be sending out a leaflet next week with more info. We'd be really interested to know if you think the campaign encourages your child to eat more veggies.

Class/Group Photographs...

Your child will bring home their PhotoTicket today. Please scan the QR code to view your child's class/group photographs online. **Please ensure you order by 13th March for free delivery to school.** If you have mislaid the PhotoTicket, please contact the office for a copy to be emailed to you.

PE shoes...

Despite the drier weather, our school field is still extremely muddy from the seemingly never-ending rain recently. Please can you ensure that your child brings in a spare pair of shoes for their PE days so that they can get one pair muddy and keep another clean to wear in school. Thank you for your support.



Learning highlights this week....

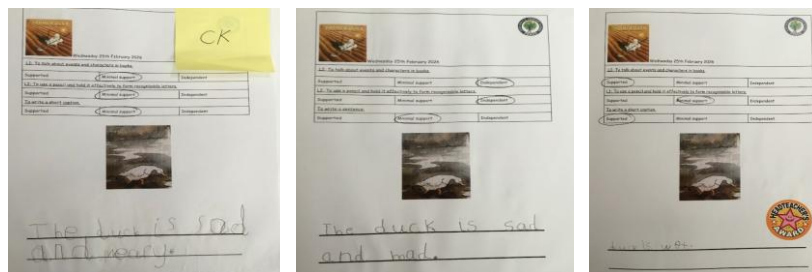
Acorns

This week we have started our new termly topic of 'Come Outside'. We have been exploring the Garden area and Forest School a lot more and talking about the signs of Spring that we have noticed. We have been pleased to have a lot less rain and a lot more sun and this has meant we have also seen a lot more bugs coming out like bees and ladybirds. We have got out some non-fiction fact books about insects to look at to help us to learn more about the bugs that we have noticed.



We have also been using our learning about growing plants from last term in provision in the planting area outside where we have started to plant seeds independently using trowels, soil, pots and seeds.

Our story of the week has been 'Farmer Duck'. We were shocked at how lazy the farmer was and that he kept shouting 'How goes the work?' to the duck who was doing all of the work and the duck replied 'quack'. We felt sad for the duck who was very tired doing all of the farm work by himself. We wrote about the duck and how he was feeling working in the rain on the farm.



Acorn Reminders

- It is the start of Buckinghamshire Communication Week next week! We are going to get involved in class and hope you will at home. Here is the link to the website with the information; <https://earlyyearsweb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/communication-week/>.
- Please view attached a challenge card you can try to do as part of communication week so you can get involved. Please send us photos, a video or write us a bit of information about what you do so we can celebrate it in class.

Year One and Two

We have started our learning about the Easter Story and the importance of the Resurrection to Christians by remembering the events of Palm Sunday. We greeted a special person by cheering and waving palm branches and then wondered what could have happened after such a triumphant day for Jesus and his followers. In Maths, Year 1 have been using Base 10 to help them partition numbers to 50 into tens and ones.

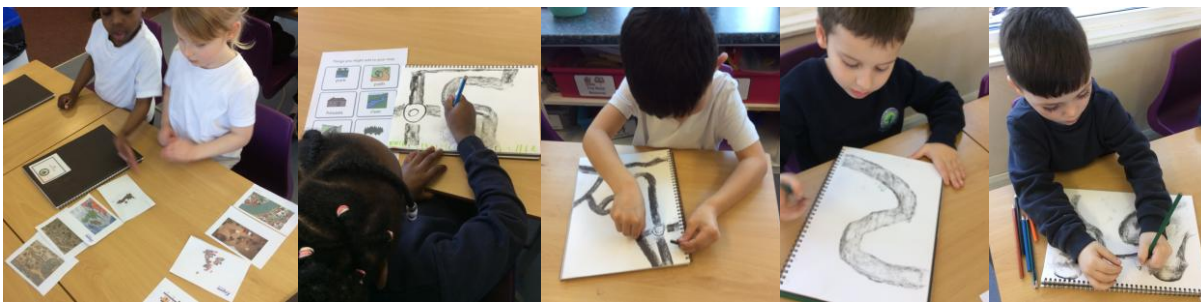


In Geography, we used an Atlas to help us recognise and label the countries in the United Kingdom, we also learnt their capital cities, so please feel free to test us! We have loved looking through all of the wonderful homework we have received this week and the children have enjoyed sharing all their hard work. We have seen wonderful historical toy time lines, beautiful works of art based on The Enchanted Wood and fabulous photos of the cookies that have been baked inspired by Faruq and the Wiri Wiri tree. Thank you all for your efforts.



Map work will continue in Art as we will be inspired by the works of artists like Sarah Stockwell to create imaginary maps using a variety of mediums. This week we sorted a number of images according to different criteria and it was interesting to hear children debate whether certain images were 'art' or not!

In our Science lessons this term we will be investigating the Weather and the changing seasons and we have loved observing the blue skies and signs of spring in our grounds this week.



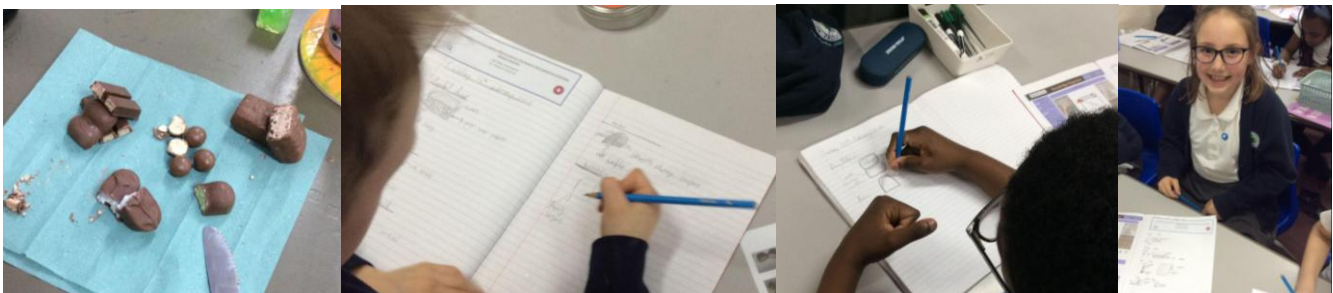
At lunchtimes the children will be enjoying the opportunity to sign up or drop into a number of clubs. Mrs Fox is running Mindful Colouring and Games drop ins on Tuesdays and Fridays. Mrs Barrasford will be inviting children to the Gardening club on Tuesdays and Mrs Bird and Miss Bright will be running Sketch and Construction clubs so there will be lots to keep the children entertained during lunchtimes.

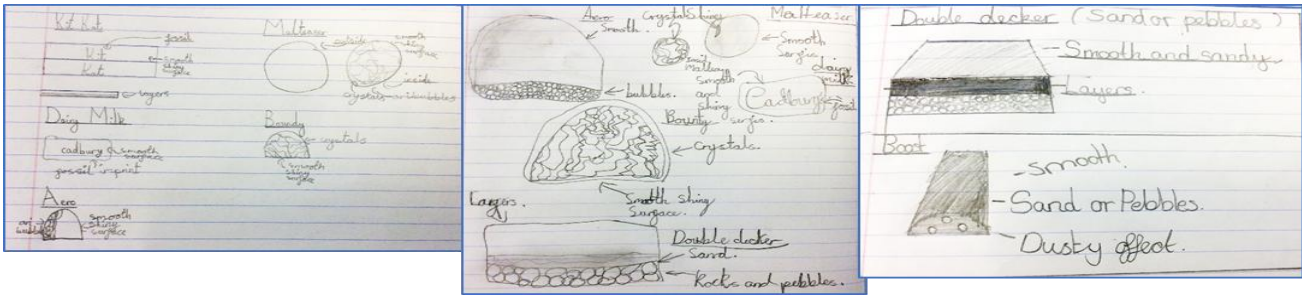
Year 1/2 Reminders

- **World book Day - Thursday 5th March**
- **I'm afraid we are asking for cereal boxes again! We are in need of various materials to create our crafty relief maps - any old newspapers, maps, wool, string, tin foil, fabric or A4 strong cardboard will be very gratefully received.**

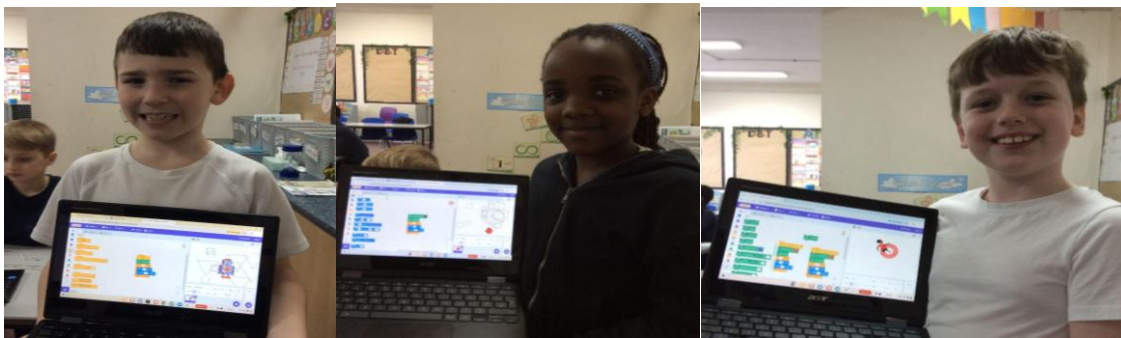
Year Three and Four

During our science topic this half term, we are learning about rocks. This week, we have been thinking about different types of rock and what they look like on the inside. To do this, we looked at different chocolate bars that represent each type of rock. Once we had looked at each bar, we drew a cross-section of it and labelled it with our scientific vocabulary.





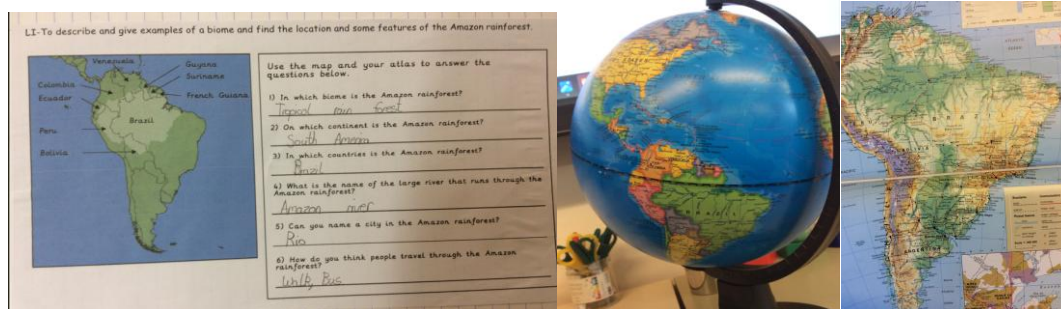
Our first computing lesson was all about transferring our coding skills from one programme to another. We started learning about loops and repeating patterns on turtle academy so this half term we are transferring those skills to scratch. We had to remember all the skills we'd learnt before in scratch and combined them with our new skills. We made some fantastic repeating patterns!



This week in Year 3 Maths, the children have been learning how to divide two-digit numbers by a one-digit number. They began by using whole-part-part diagrams to partition numbers into tens and ones, helping them to clearly understand how numbers can be broken down. As their confidence grew, they moved on to flexibly partitioning numbers when the tens or ones could not be shared equally. Today, the children took the next step by learning how to divide two-digit numbers with remainders. They used place value counters and place value charts to support their understanding and to clearly see how the maths works in practice. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they deepen their understanding of division.



This week, the children have started their new geography topic, *Why are rainforests important to us?* We began by exploring what biomes are and identifying which biome the Amazon Rainforest belongs to. The children then learned about the key features of the Amazon Rainforest, including its climate, vegetation and location. Using atlases and globes, the children answered a range of questions to help them understand why the Amazon Rainforest is part of the tropical rainforest biome. It has been wonderful to see them developing their map skills and building their understanding of the wider world.



The children are continuing to learn to play the violin. This week, they practised plucking the strings to the tune of *Jelly on a Plate*. They had great fun and it was wonderful to see how much progress they are making. By the end of the session, they were able to play the tune together and keep in time as a group which was fantastic to hear.



Year 3/4 Reminders

- Next week, the children will need to cut out pictures of clothes from magazines or catalogues for our French lesson.
- If you have any old magazines or catalogues that you no longer need, we would really appreciate it if you could bring them in and drop them off in Hazel Class. Thank you very much for your help and support.

Year Five and Six

In Geography this week, we have begun our topic of 'deserts' (only one s!). We have learned new vocabulary such as 'arid', 'biome', 'vegetation' and 'climate'. We then heard a geographer's perspective on learning about hemispheres and seasons. The children noted down anything they noticed about the location, climate, landscape, plants and animals in a desert biome and used this information to write a 'postcard' home full of their new knowledge.

In Computing this week, we explored a website, understanding how it is organised, identifying different types of media and knowing that it is made using HTML. We considered new vocabulary - browser and discussed the difference between a website and a webpage. We annotated a page from a website we focussed on about animals after using search strategies to locate information.

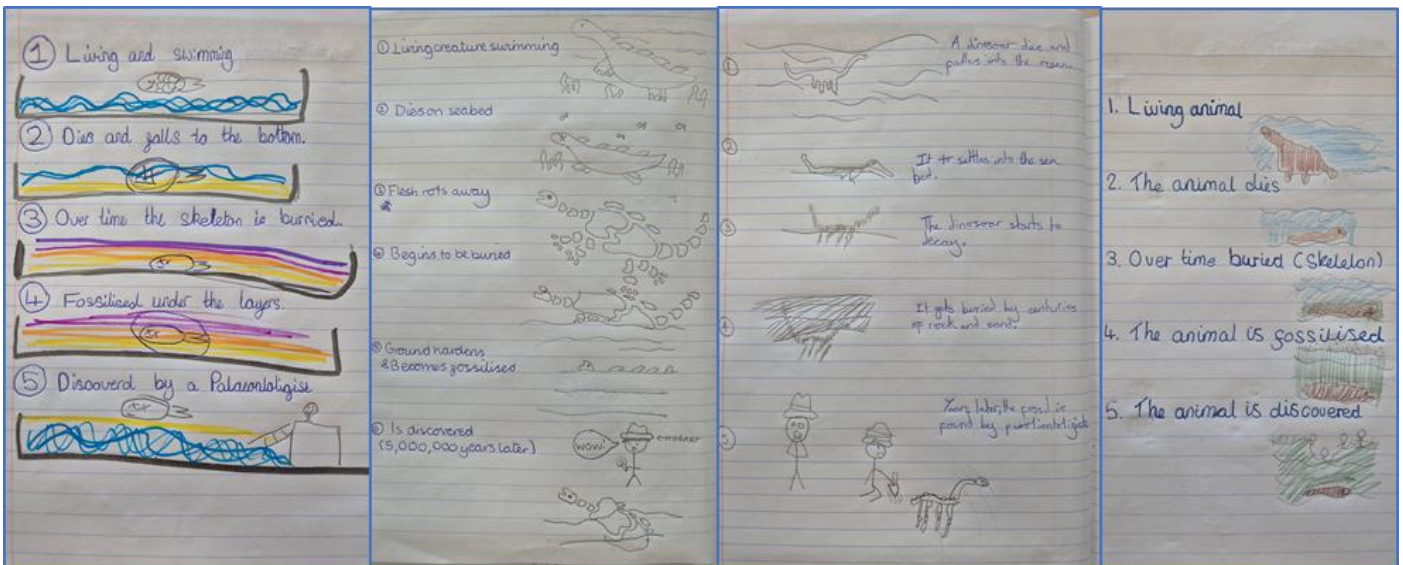
There are images to make the site more engaging

This is a search bar so you are able to search what is necessary



This shows what type of animal it is and what it eats

In Science, we sequenced the fossilisation process, helping us to understand that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

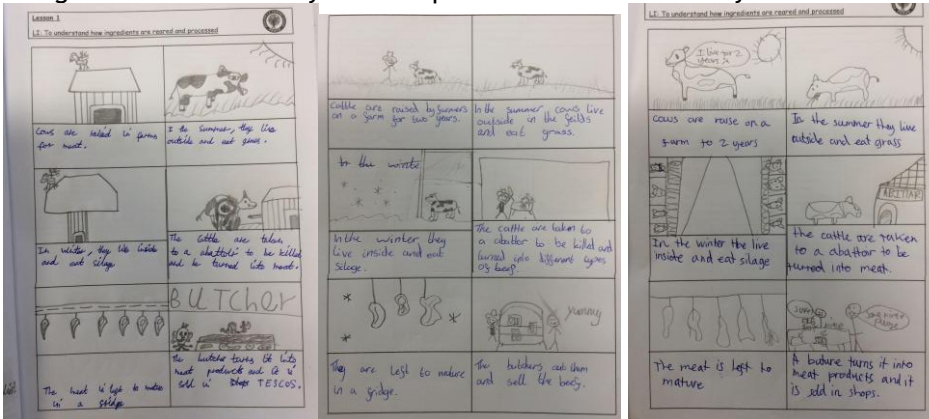


In English, we have been writing a recount of the feat that Mauro Prospero achieved in the gruelling Marathon des Sables. One particular skill, changing tenses, has been quite tricky. It has meant that we need a strong understanding of verb forms and tenses. We have then applied this into writing flashbacks, which he experienced during his time in the desert.

The sun still shines relentlessly, not a cloud in sight. He hears a nearby rattlesnake and suddenly he isn't in the desert but taken back in time to when he was young. He was in the kitchen with his mother, grinding pepper into the carbonara. Then, his Pa came in. They all started singing and laughing together. Mauro stumbles back in the desert. Reaching his water to his cracked lips. Nothing.

The sandstorm is engulfing the horizon and there is no hope of finding his way. There is nothing left to do except to keep going on and on. Before long, he was swept back into the past. He was frolicking around in the Italian countryside when he was called in for supper by his mum. He feels as though he could cry at the thought and an intense pain pierces his heart as it feels like this race would never end.

In D&T this half term, we are looking at the ingredients of Bolognese sauce. We have started our unit by understanding where minced beef comes from, from 'farm to fork'. We created comic strips to show the process whilst also discussing, as we will be throughout the unit, meat alternatives. We also looked at the ingredients in a Bolognese sauce and many were surprised to know that celery and red wine vinegar were often included!



Year 5/6 Reminders

- Friday 6th March, 2.15pm - Oak Class Assembly. Parents are welcome, doors open at 2.05pm.

Year 6 Easter Cracked...

On Wednesday 11th March the Bridgebuilder Trust team will be visiting our school to present a fast-moving and interactive presentation entitled "EasterCracked". The presentation will include:

- Individual workbook designed with a variety of activities
- The Easter story told through different media
- An explanation of what Easter means to Christians
- An Easter activity.

Cadbury Crème Egg

In past years, the children have been given a Cadbury Crème Egg. If you DO NOT wish your child to be given one due to allergy reasons, please email the office.

Star Writers

Well done to our star writers this week! In Year 5/6, Gaby, Rafael, Christian, William and Logan had all impressed their teachers with their fantastic balanced argument, discussing the question 'Should we travel to space?', considering both sides of the debate. Using sentence openers to organise their work, such as 'On the other hand...' ensured their writing was well-sequenced and suitable for the purpose of the piece. Meanwhile in Year 3/4, excellent non-fiction writing was produced by Georgina and Charlie. Using their knowledge of light from their science topic, they were able to include fantastic facts about light structured into paragraphs. Rory in Year 2 is a star writer for his excellent use of phonics when spelling some difficult words in his star write whilst Samuel was star writer for his excellent handwriting. Well done to all!



Football Match Report...

We had a great match! We played against St Michael's and they were very nice to us and won 2-0.

Emilia saved a lot of great shots and did amazing dives. Our captain was Jojo and blocked plenty of goals against the opposing team whilst being a great sport and taking charge of our team to make everyone feel equal. Azalea was also a great defender who was very unbeatable during the whole of the match. Phoebe was 100% locked in to the match and got stuck into tackles and never gave up even if they took the ball off her. Daisy was constantly trying to find a space to pass to someone and she was cheering everyone even on the sidelines. Cali had great sportsmanship and was also challenging their goalie with her strong shots. Gaby was amazing at both defending and mid field no one could get past her she never gave up and always tried her hardest. Tilly was up front and was constantly getting the ball and pushing through the defenders.



Mrs Derham did great coaching and is always supporting us with her pep talks. Cali was player of the match and displayed an array of what she is capable of and did amazing.

By Jojo and Gaby

Reflections this week...

This week we have been thinking about how white light can be split via a prism into many different colours and how we can be very much like a white light - appear as one thing yet there are other talents and skills which may be hidden. We then moved on to looking at the rainbow. God sent Noah a message with the rainbow - to let the animals out of the ark and that this was God's covenant. ***I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.*** Genesis 9:13. The children have then made rainbow promises of how they are going to look after each other and the earth so that everyone feels that they belong and are happy to be here.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 95.8%. Please remember to continue emailing absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

Diary dates for next week commencing 2nd March...

Tuesday 3rd March, 2.00-6.00pm - Parent Consultations in the hall

Wednesday 4th March, 4.30-7.30pm - Parent Consultations in the hall

Wednesday 4th March - Foundation NCMP height and weight measurements

Wednesday 4th March - NO CHOIR CLUB due to parent consultations

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day with HASA Breakfast at 8.15am

Friday 6th March, 2.15pm - Oak Class Assembly, doors open at 2.05pm

Friday 6th March, 2.55pm - KS2 Star Assembly. Invitation only. Doors open at 2.45pm

Friday 6th March, 3.30-4.30pm - Year 6 Mixed Football Fixture (Away)

Have a lovely weekend,

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk

Save the date...

Join us for
High Ash School's ...

Quiz Night

**at Great Brickhill
Cricket Club**

MARCH | 20
7:30 PM

£5 per person per entry
Tables of up to 6
All proceeds to the school!
Book your place on our online store
or see a member of HASA
<https://highash.sumupstore.com>

Prizes to be won!

The poster features a purple background with a white border. It includes decorative elements such as yellow stars and white wavy lines. The text is primarily white and yellow, with the event title 'Quiz Night' in a large, stylized font.