



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 6th March 2026

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16



Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

It was lovely to see you all this week attending the Parent teacher consultations. There were many celebrations of the progress children have made to date and purposeful conversations taking place on what the next steps are. We really do value your input and support as we are in partnership with you to ensure that your child makes the best progress possible. We had a lovely day yesterday with lots of children dressing up for World Book day and there was lots of chatter about how important books are. Earlier in the week, we had a visit from our Local Authority Early Years Advisor who came to see the children and provision in Acorns. She was very impressed with our provision for early years, the children's behaviour, their independence, and their conversations with each other - well done to Mrs Bird, Miss Stewart, Mrs Murdock and Miss Cassie for all their hard work.

World Book Day

Thank you to all of our families for supporting our 'Breakfast and a Book' on Thursday. It was such a delight to see so many of you enjoying the event and reading with your children.



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**

Reminder - Class/Group Photographs...

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.

Staffing updates...

As Mrs Derham will be leaving us at Easter to start her maternity leave, Mrs Barrasford will be our interim Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Barrasford is very experienced and well placed to sit on our senior leadership team.

Mr Milne will be teaching Willow Class when Mrs Derham is on maternity leave. Mr Milne will be present in school on Tuesday and Wednesday next week when he will be getting to know Willow class and having a handover from Mrs Derham. If you would like to meet Mr Milne, he will be around at the end of the day, so please do feel free to introduce yourselves.

Mrs Weatherall, Holly class teacher, will also be leaving us at Easter to start her maternity leave. On Monday, Mrs Thompson will be in school getting to know Holly class and having a handover with Mrs Weatherall. If you would like to meet Mrs Thompson, then she will be around at the end of the day. Mrs Thompson would love to meet Holly Parents.

FKS1 Lunch-Time club - Summer Term...

You may remember last half term our Year 2 children had a fabulous time when Shaun McCarthy, Director and Founder of Football2Music visited our school and gave the children a taster session. There was so much laughing and children really enjoying developing their football skills. We are now excited to inform you that we are offering a lunchtime club to Foundation, Year 1 and 2 children in the Summer Term on Monday's. Please see the attached flyer for full details and click on the links below to book your child a place:

Reception @ 12.15pm - <https://bookthatin.com/link/BOL737>

Year 1-2 @ 12.45pm - <https://bookthatin.com/link/OLKWZO>

Learning highlights this week....

Acorns

A wonderful sunny week in Acorns this week! Being able to talk about our signs of Spring and seeing the change in the weather has been very welcome. The children have been learning to forage and find signs of Spring whilst we have been enjoying exploring our sand and water areas and have shown great team work, communication skills and respect for each other and our resources. We have especially enjoyed playing with our solar powered water fountain! It has amazed us how it worked in direct sunlight and stopped working when in shadow.



We have been able to do so much more of our learning outside. Using our story ‘Rosie’s Walk’, we recreated her walk using our large construction, we then used our prepositional language such as over, under, through and around to describe our walk as we traversed it.

We also had the joy of World Book Day this week! The children wore amazing costumes and were so excited to explain which character they were dressed as and share the books they had brought in with them in provision with their friends.



Acorn Reminders

- We now have live caterpillars in our classroom and will be looking at the caterpillar life cycle next week. You could talk to your child about what happens to caterpillars and how they go through the metamorphosis.

Year One and Two

KS1 had fun making fruit kebabs as part of their ‘Healthy Me’ PSHE unit of work. The children loved the cucumber and carrots but the hummus got mixed reviews! We all agreed that choosing fruit and vegetables for a snack sometimes was a really good idea.



Our lunch time clubs are underway and on Thursday, our children enjoyed dropping in to Games Club with Mrs Fox. Drawing Club has also been a hit this week providing children with the opportunity to have some peaceful activities away from the playground.

Our English work this week has been based on 'The Oak Tree' by Julia Donaldson. It's a lovely story charting the life of an oak over a thousand years. The children have loved imagining what the tree might have seen over the ages from Norman children building swings in its branches to Victorians using its acorns as eyes for a snowman - another highly recommended bedtime story!

In Maths Year 2 have started their Fractions topic and have been recognising and finding a half and a quarter. It will be thirds next week. Year 1 has been counting in 5s.



World Book Day

We had such a lovely day on Thursday, the children's outfits were wonderful and we enjoyed taking time to read our favourite books, sharing stories and even making our own books. We also enjoyed our visits from other classes and we think parents would have been very proud to see some siblings reading so beautifully together!. Reading is such an important part of life in High Ash, it was so special to have a day to celebrate it.



Year 1/2 Reminders

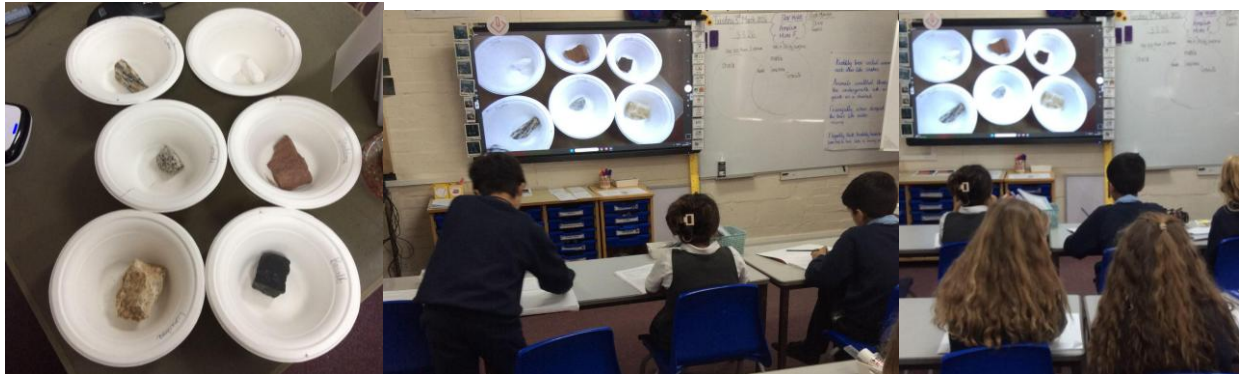
- [Special Ladies Assembly - Friday 13th March @ 14:45, doors open 14:35.](#)

Year Three and Four

In Art, we have been learning about tints, tones and shades. We learnt that if we add white to a colour it lightens it and creates a tint and if we add black to a colour it makes a shade. To practice and show our new knowledge, we used different colours and made both shades and tints.



During science this week we used our previous knowledge about rocks and likening them to chocolate bars to classify and group actual rocks. We did this by creating a venn diagram and picked our own headings to classify 6 different rocks.



Our computing lesson this week has been focussed on eternal loops. We were using our previous knowledge and skills around creating loops and patterns, but this time they had to be FOREVER! We thought about things that may go on forever like time, the water cycle and we even thought about school! Each of us chose our own sprite (we started with dinosaurs) and created loops to make them move and dance!



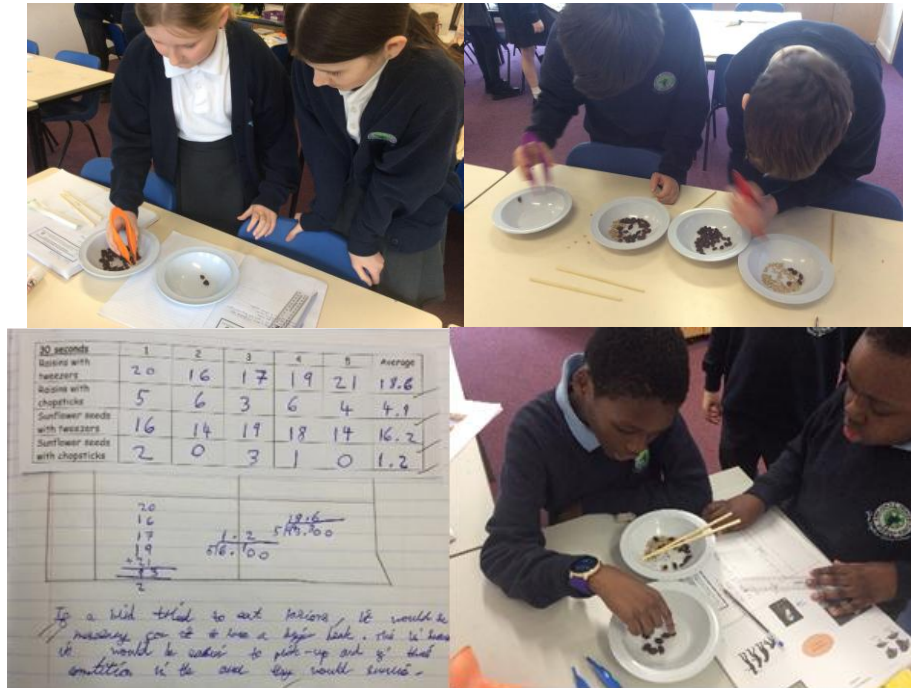
World Book Day

We enjoyed reading with children from other classes. Here's some of Holly who paired up with children from Chestnut. We read to each other and talked about our books.



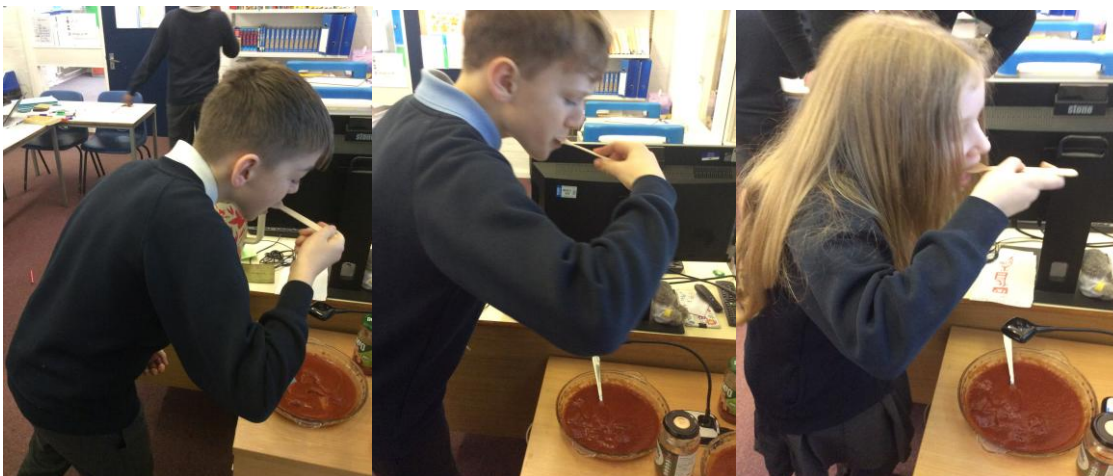
Year Five and Six

In Science this week, we were investigating different beaks, as studied by Charles Darwin in the Galapagos Islands. Using chopsticks and tweezers, we recognised how difficult it was to pick up the smaller sunflower seeds yet were more able to collect the raisins as they were bigger. We recorded our observations in a table, as we measured how quickly we could transfer them from one bowl to another.



In DT we are going to be cooking spaghetti bolognese (after Easter). In preparation, we have been exploring where our food comes from and this week we have been looking at recipes and adapting them to suit our own tastes, thinking about allergies, preferences and other concerns. As part of this process, we taste-tested two shop-bought spaghetti bolognese sauces. Before tasting, we looked at the packaging and ingredients. We then compared the texture, taste and appearance.

We all had different thoughts, but everyone agreed it was a fun lesson.



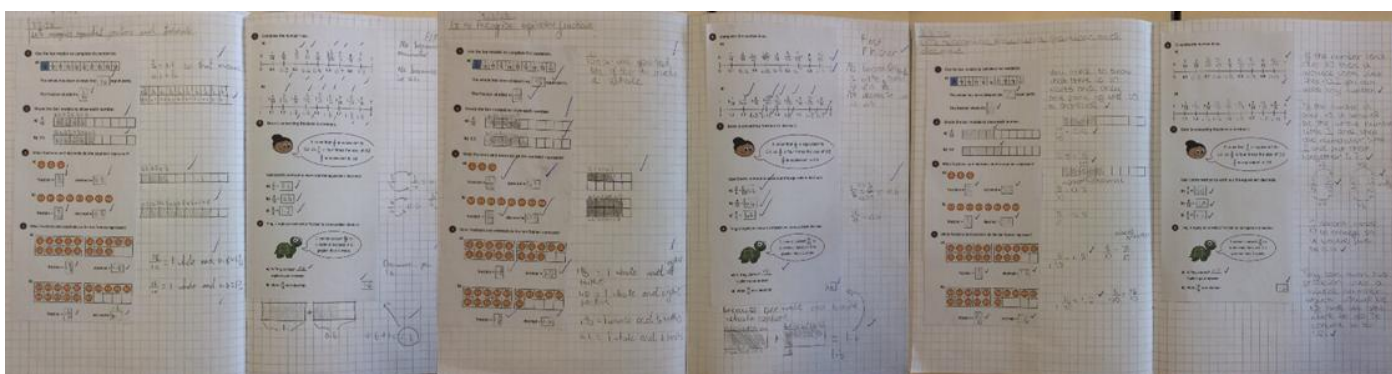
In PE, we have been enjoying orienteering. Using skills such as map reading, communication and perseverance partnered with our fitness, we have been following instructions and completing circuits. Even in our World Book Day costumes, we had a fantastic time!



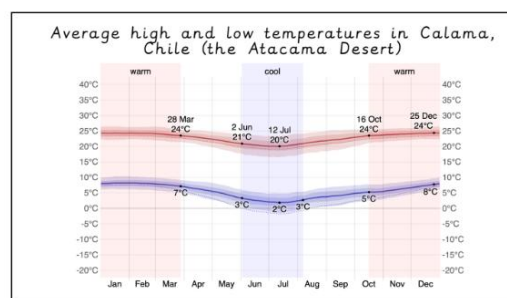
Meanwhile, in our indoor PE lessons, we have been learning a dance to the song 'Sax' by Fleur East. We have started with a piece in unison and progressed to dancing in a 'Q & A' style, with one group following the other in reply. There have been lots of leg kicks, jumps, strutting and arm movements and we are looking pretty good, so far!



In Maths, we have been finding equivalent fractions and decimals. Here is some beautifully presented work demonstrating our understanding by Nifemi, Rosie and Summer...



In Geography, we labelled each continent's largest desert using a word bank and Google Maps. We then learned about the Mojave Desert in North America and compared these temperatures with those in London and the Atacama Desert identifying similarities and differences between the climates of the three locations.



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 "Easter Cracked". 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.

Reflections this week...

This week, we thought about the importance of books. How books have the power to take you on all sorts of adventures and can help us learn. We thought about how Christians use the Bible to help shape their lives. We looked at the bible reading from Psalm 119:105 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path'.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 94.8%. Please remember to continue emailing absence@highashschool.co.uk for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

HASA upcoming events..

Quiz Night - HASA are looking forward to hosting their Quiz Night at Great Brickhill Cricket club on **Friday 20th March at 7.30pm**. Please book your place at their online store. See Flyer.

Raffle prize donations - HASA will have an Easter Raffle at the end of this term. If you are able to donate a prize or a voucher for a service, they would be incredibly grateful.

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

Wednesday 11th March - Year 6 Easter Cracked presentation in school
Thursday 12th March - Year 6 Mixed Squad Football fixture v Whitchurch (Home)

Friday 13th March - Year 6 Girls Football fixture v North Marston School (Away)

Friday 13th March, 2.45pm - F/KS1 Special Ladies Assembly. Parents are welcome!

Have a lovely weekend,

Kate Goodger

Mrs. Kate Goodger
Headteacher

headteacher@highashschool.co.uk

