



# High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 13th March 2026

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



*Grow Together Shine Forever*

To all our families,

It has been another incredibly busy and productive week here at school. We recently welcomed several external experts—including specialists in **Phonics** and **Maths**, a **Local Authority Advisor**, and our **School Improvement Advisor**—to take a deep dive into our curriculum, teaching standards, and leadership.

I am thrilled to share that their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the dedication of our staff and the hard work of our pupils.

#### Key Strengths Identified:

- **Exceptional Reading & Phonics:** Our phonics provision and reading curriculum were noted as being particularly strong.
- **Engaged Learners:** The visitors praised the excellent focus and engagement our children show during their lessons.
- **Expert Teaching:** Our teachers were recognized for their deep subject knowledge and "great pedagogy" (the effective methods they use to help children learn).
- **Strategic Curriculum:** Our curriculum is well-sequenced, ensuring that learning builds logically year after year.
- **Strong Leadership:** Leadership at every level was identified as a major asset to the school's success.

It's wonderful to have external experts validate what we see every day: a school community that is focused, ambitious, and thriving.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school such a vibrant place to learn.

#### Message from the Governors...

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Parent Governor, Peeyush Goodwin, to her first Governing board meeting on Monday next week.

The full list of Governors can be found [here](#). Jemma Clamp (mother of Francis in Year 3 Hawthorn) is currently our Chair. The Governors are all volunteers and are currently working hard with the school in preparation for OFSTED's forthcoming visit. As a reminder the Governing Board's role is to set the strategic direction of High Ash, to work with the Headteacher and school to drive school improvement and to oversee financial performance. Governors are often described as a "critical friend" to the school. We're always happy to hear from parents, whether to discuss something about the school, give ideas or find out more about what we are doing. Please feel free to contact the Chair at [chair@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:chair@highashschool.co.uk) if you'd like to be in touch.

#### FIKS1 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>

A full list of all our Summer Term clubs will be released to parents at the end of next week.

### *Learning highlights this week....*

#### Acorns

This week, the children have been working hard on preparing for our Special Ladies assembly. We have worked hard on practising the songs and our poem ready to perform. We have been trying hard to get on the stage, stand well, perform and get off the stage like real performers.

We have also been working hard on our beautiful Mother's Day cards! We used our printing skills and hope that you enjoy them as much as we enjoyed making them. We hope you all have a wonderful Mother's Day on Sunday!

We have been fascinated by the caterpillars in our class and how they have changed and grown! We have noticed that they have shed their skin and got so much bigger since arriving in our class. We talked about the butterfly life cycle and the 'metamorphosis' that caterpillars go through to become butterflies. We then cut out and stuck the lifecycle in order. We are so excited to see the caterpillars create their chrysalis! We expect it will happen soon so will put an update into the newsletter next week.



#### Acorn Reminders

- Next week the children will be looking at the story of 'The Little Red Hen' . You could talk to your child about the story and reflect on how, when we work hard, we get rewarded. You could also try some different types of bread as that's what the Little Red Hen works hard to get.
- Thu 19 Mar - See us Shine event for parents at 9.00am. This is another 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. The session will finish at 9.30am. Please complete the form below: <https://forms.gle/G7C8NKTQde8cjgqx9>

#### Year One and Two

It's been a busy week rehearsing for our assembly to celebrate the Special ladies in our lives. The children have worked so hard to learn their songs and lines, we hope all of the wonderful ladies enjoyed the performance on Friday afternoon!

In Art, KS1 have been using their imaginary maps to get crafty and build a 'relief map' . We were inspired by the work of Emma Johnson who uses collage and different materials and textures to create maps and we had fun choosing and layering materials to create hills, streams and roads on our maps.



In Maths, Year 2 have been continuing to build on their knowledge of fractions to recognise and find one third and they have also been enjoying some practical maths to develop their understanding of measuring height and length. Year 1 has been consolidating their understanding of numbers to 50.



Our lunchtime clubs are proving very popular especially for children who can sometimes find playtime overwhelming. Having Games Club to drop into or spending some quiet time planting Spring flowers can provide a welcome relief. This week the Gardening Club prepared some planters by weeding and then adding compost, but their favourite part was tucking the primroses into their new home - we have some very green fingered gardeners (and some very muddy hands)!



### Year Three and Four

This week in Science we were testing the physical properties of rocks. We did this by seeing which rock was the hardest, most water proof and the least reactive to acid (white vinegar). Each group tested 6 rocks and found that different rocks were the best for the different criteria.



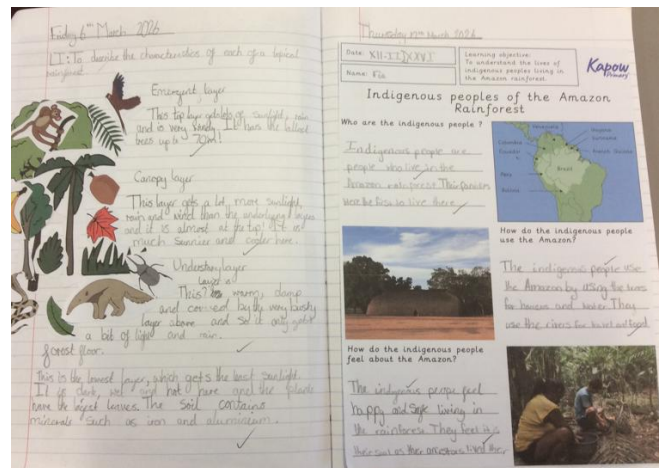
In Art, we have continued our understanding of tints and shades. We started with one colour and created lighter and darker versions in order to make our painting appear 3D. We used a grid and aimed to use a slightly different colour in each box. It was a very effective method to show the shadow depending on the amount of light hitting the object being recreated.



In our Year 4 Maths fluency sessions, we have been increasing the amount of 'Going for Gold' times table cards that we have in our packs. We have been working with our partner every day to practice and make sure we can recite the answer efficiently and accurately.



During our Geography topic this half term we have been focussing on the Amazon Rainforest. Learning about where they are located and what lives in each identifiable layer. This week we have been learning about the indigenous people that live in the Amazon Rainforest. Specifically, how they use the Amazon Rainforest and how they feel about it.



Mr Cornish came in this week to work with Holly class.



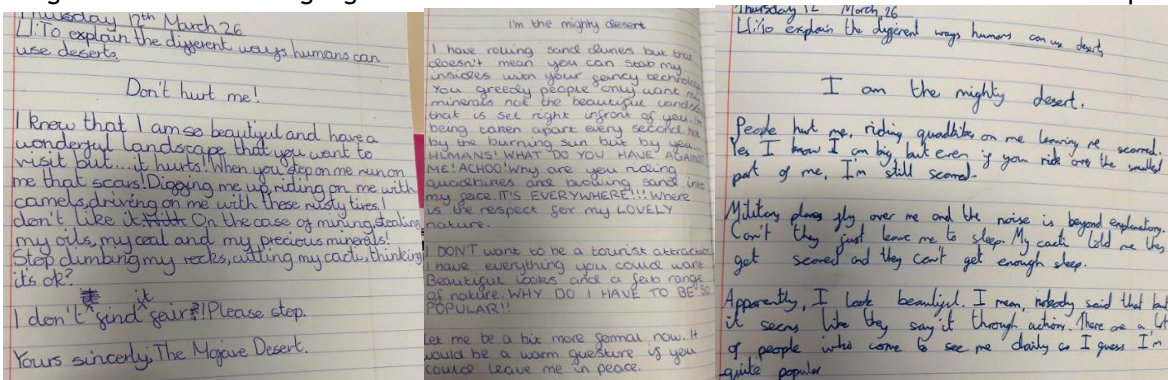
### Year 3/4 Reminders

- Don't forget that on **Friday 27th March** we will be completing our Geography field trip to Rushmere to learn about how our local woodland is used.
- Please remind your children to keep their fidget toys and soft toys at home unless it has been agreed with a teacher that they can have them on their desks. It is important that the children have a clear space to work.

### Year Five and Six

What a busy week we've had!

In Geography, we learned about how people use deserts, this includes: recreational purposes, farming or ranching, military purposes, mining, renewable energy, tourism, protected nature reserves and settlement. The children then wrote a diary entry, personifying the desert and all its marvellous uses to humans. Some children chose to imagine the desert having a good old moan about how it has been misused. Here are some super examples:

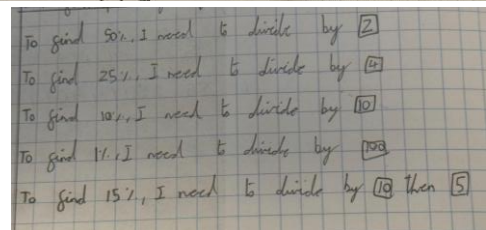
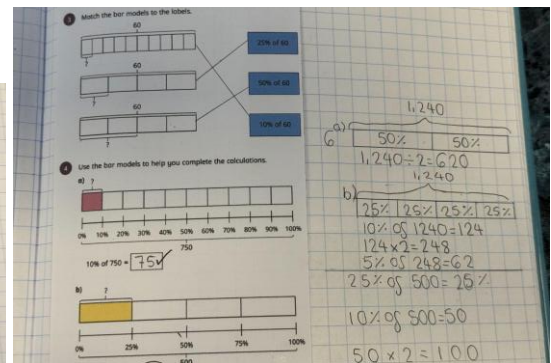
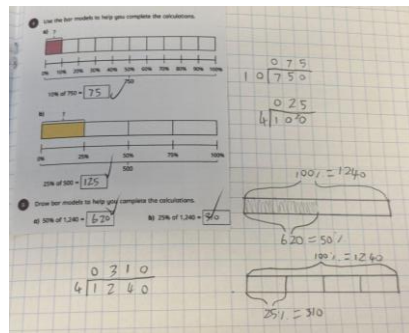
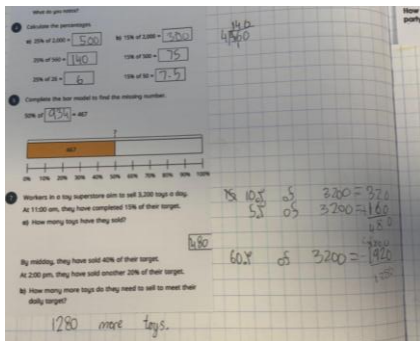


In DT this week, we were looking at the nutritional value of our Spaghetti Bolognese recipe, using a nutritional calculator. We could adapt the quantity of our ingredients and what ingredients we chose to include and recognised

that this, as a result, changed the nutritional value. Some noticed sooner than others that adding some chilli peppers didn't change too much. However, if we wanted to include over 60g of olive oil (!) it increased the grams of fat significantly which then made this an unhealthy meal. It has been lovely to see the children share their ideas for ingredients to include such as worcestershire sauce, soy sauce and even scotch bonnet!

Ingredient	Minced Beef	Chopped tomatoes	Onion	Garlic	Olive Oil	Carrot	Celery	
Quantity (in grams)	400.0	800.0	200.0	6.0	26.6	100.0		
Nutritional value of each ingredient								
Energy (kcal)	1,000.0	160.0	80.0	2.9	235.1	41.0	0.0	
Fat (g)	65.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	26.6	0.2	0.0	
of which saturates (g)	26.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	
Carbohydrate (g)	0.0	31.2	18.0	2.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	
of which sugars (g)	0.0	25.6	10.0	0.1	0.0	4.7	0.0	
Fibre (g)	0.0	6.4	3.4	0.1	0.0	2.8	0.0	
Protein (g)	104.0	7.2	2.0	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.0	
Salt (g)	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Nutritional value of a portion of the recipe								
Energy (kcal)							Serves	4.0
Fat (g)								23.9
of which saturates (g)								7.4
Carbohydrate (g)								15.3
of which sugars (g)								10.1
Fibre (g)								3.2
Protein (g)								28.6
Salt (g)								0.4

In Mrs Derham's Maths class, we have been ploughing ahead to ensure the Y6s are best prepared for SATs by understanding the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. There has been some excellent maths taking place, as evidenced by this wonderful presentation of workings and models by Summer, Rosie and Artur. Well done!



### Year 6 Easter Cracked...

On Wednesday this week, Yr 6 took part in Easter Cracked, hosted by Bridgebuilder Trust MK. During the activity session, we looked at Jesus' life - from birth to death - and how his death impacted the rest of the world. At the beginning, the leaders introduced themselves and played a game with us to get an understanding of what we knew and what they needed to teach us.

We then thought about how Jesus lived on Earth and the miracles he performed. We played a game where we had to find the puzzle pieces, displaying a part of Jesus's life hidden around the room. Some of Yr 6 then hung them on a washing line in the order that they happened. After this, we watched a video of the last supper, and spoke about the meaning behind the bread and the wine.

We watched a performance where one of the leaders pretended to be a Roman soldier who crucified Jesus (we really enjoyed it and it gave us a deeper understanding of what it was really like). Overall, it was a very interesting experience and we enjoyed it a lot. We would definitely recommend it for other years.

By Anna and Divine

BRIDGEBUILDER  
trust • mk



### *Year 6 Mixed Football Match Report...*

#### **Score: 10-0 to High Ash against North Marston**

We kicked off the game in horrible, rainy weather with a strong start taking our shots as our captain Riley told us to do before the game. We were playing very well as Calum dribbled to the edge of the box and passed it to Ethan to slot it in the bottom right corner. We maintained possession as we scored our second by Ethan. We were playing amazingly well that they brought on their eighth player! Then, Calum through-balled it to Seb and dribbled passed players and scored before being subbed off for Jax. As the whistle was about to blow for half time, Calum scored a goal making it 4-0. When it was half time, we took a break and thought about what we could improve. We kicked off the second half just as strong and determined to score even more goals. We scored our 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th goal by Riley, Jax and Calum and with 2 more goals assisted by Riley to finish the game with a 10-0 win. Our player of the match was Emilia, well done!

Thank you to all of the parents for travelling, standing in the rain and helping to pack-down after the match.

*Written by Seb S and Riley*

#### **Score: 5-3 to High Ash against Whitchurch**

This one of a kind game sparked a win for the High Ash mixed football team against Whitchurch. Before we start we would like to thank Mrs Derham for coaching us to victory, with a score of 5-3. We would also like to thank Whitchurch's coach, who kindly volunteered to be the referee of the game.

At kick off, Whitchurch began and the game had started! But soon enough High Ash had possession of the ball. William, who was on the left wing, had tackled, dribbled up the wing, and passed to Cleo, who assisted Riley, and he scored the first goal of the game, making it 1-0. But soon after that Whitchurch had scored, making it even once again.

Then the half-time whistle blew, but as the second -half whistle blew, High Ash were back on track. Cleo started with the ball, passing it diagonally to Calum, who dribbled, then passed back to Cleo, who made an assist again, this time for Calum, who made it 2-1 to the High Ash team. Then with High Ash in possession of the ball, Ava then took a shot but sadly missed. High Ash then got given a free kick because of a handball.

This free kick had High Ash's reputation on the line Whitchurch went for it. But Riley conquered. He dribbled, tackled, and dodged every obstacle until the goal was in front of him. He shot. HE SCORED! 3-1 To High Ash!

Whitchurch was not happy and neither was the goal post, and the goal post decided to collapse. But thankfully after a short break in play the goal was being held up by the loyal wrap-around children. Whitchurch made a move and started thinking differently. They were on a roll. They dribbled up the right wing, with perfect placement, and made an impressive comeback, making the score 3-2. There were now less than 5 minutes left on the clock but High Ash broke through making the score 5-3, just before the whistle. Well done Ethan for winning MOTM.

*Written by Ava and Cleo*

### *Quick Reminder: Keeping Our School Nut-Safe...*

We wanted to send a quick friendly reminder that we are a nut free school. We all know to avoid peanut butter and whole nuts, but some "hidden" sources can be tricky. You might be surprised to find nut traces or oils in these common school snacks:

- **Pesto Sauce:** Traditional recipes use pine nuts, but many store-bought versions contain **cashews or walnuts**.
- **Cereal Bars & Granola:** Even if they don't have whole nuts, many use nut-based "binders" or oils.
- **Hummus:** Some varieties include pine nuts or are processed in facilities with sesame and nuts.
- **Baked Goods:** Check store-bought muffins and cookies—especially "almond flour" or "almond extract" in gluten-free options.
- **Asian-style Sauces:** Satay is the obvious one, but some soy or hoisin sauces may contain peanut traces.

### **How You Can Help**

1. **Read the "Bold":** Most packaging now lists allergens in **bold** within the ingredients list.
2. **"May Contain":** If a label says "may contain traces of nuts," please try to save that snack for home.

### 3. **Talk to the Kids:** A quick chat about not sharing food or spoons helps build a safer culture for everyone.

We have several students with severe allergies, and remembering to check the label when you're packing up a lunchbox makes a world of difference in keeping them safe.

#### **Reflections this week...**

This week we have been thinking about how a king would visit us. We talked about how usually, kings want to look powerful, scary, or "better" than everyone else. Yet when Jesus rode into Jerusalem he was on a donkey. Why did Jesus choose a donkey? We soon realised that Jesus wanted to give the message that he was one of us. This week's Bible reading was from Matthew 21:8-9. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road... 'Hosanna to the Son of David!

We then talked about how Jesus knew it was his last supper, yet he chose to have a small gathering with his closest friends and had a simple meal. We thought about who we would choose to be with and what we would eat.

#### **Attendance...**

This week's attendance is 96%. Please remember to continue emailing [absence@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:absence@highashschool.co.uk) for every day your child is absent from school. Thank you.

#### **Food bank collection...**

From Monday, there will be a box in reception collecting donations for the local food banks. All items need to be ambient, within date and in their original, unopened packaging. Items will be donated to the local food bank in St Mary's church in Great Brickhill or at St Luke's in Stoke Hammond. These food banks are essential to families who are struggling. Please donate what you can.



#### **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST AND THAMES VALLEY POLICE HAVE YOUR SAY SESSION...**

Come along and join us for a fantastic breakfast this **Saturday 14th March** in the **Community Centre, Bragenham Side**. Everybody is welcome, whether you might come as a family, on your own or with friends, and we often have people aged from 2 to 82 years! There's no charge, but you may make a donation if you wish.

We take orders from 8.30 to 10.20am or so, and as well as full English Breakfast we also offer lighter options and cater for vegetarians/vegans and people who follow a gluten free diet. There's even a tasty and healthy fruit salad on offer.

As well as enjoying great food and meeting fellow villagers we are joined this month by Thames Valley Police who are hosting a 'Have your Say' session at the breakfast. This is an opportunity to tell them directly and talk about the crime and public safety issues that are on your mind. We also have a collection point for anyone who wishes to donate to the village food bank and we are grateful for any support and all those who help out at the breakfast.

Do come along whether you've been before or not - you'll get a great breakfast and a chance to chat and meet new people and existing friends.

Then on **Sunday 15th** we have our Mothering Sunday Family Service at St Luke's Church at 9.30am. Again, all are welcome and there may even be gifts for any mums who come along.

#### **Specialist Cricket Coaching - Easter 2026...**

Specialist coaching available as one to one or a small group session. Led by a highly experienced coaching team including Andy O'Connor (Level III and Northants Academy Coach), Nick Broome (Level III Coach and Northants Performance Coach), Brenden Fourie (Level III Coach and former professional cricketer) and David Ripley (Former Northants Head Coach and Level IV Coach). This will be an opportunity to fast track and develop your game with the best coaches in the area. Open to players of all abilities (boys & girls), the sessions will be catered to the appropriate level of the player - from beginner to county level and in between.

- **30th & 31st March and 1st & 2nd April. Sessions can be booked by the hour as follows:**
  - 9.30am / 10.30am / 11.30am / 1.30pm / 2.30pm / 3.30pm
- **13th - 15th April. Sessions can be booked by the hour as follows:**
  - 10.30am / 11.30am / 12.30pm / 2.30pm / 3.30pm / 4.30pm

- Double & Triple sessions can be booked. For all bookings of four sessions or more a 10% discount applies.
- We are keeping our costs the same for 2026: 121 - £55, 2-3 players - £65, 4-6 players - £75

David Ripley (Former Northants Head Coach) will be joining the coaching team on the 30th & 31st March and 13<sup>th</sup> April. David's sessions cost £65 each.

Venue: Stowe School  
Please view the flyer attached.

### **Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club...**

Following on from the success of the Red Roses in the Rugby World Cup, Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club are hosting a 4 week introduction to rugby starting **Wednesday 25th March**, aimed at girls in **Years 5 and 6**.

It is a free event, and is open to all girls, no matter their experience. All the information can be viewed within the attached posters. To register interest, please email [girlsloverugby@buzzardrugby.co.uk](mailto:girlsloverugby@buzzardrugby.co.uk).

### **HASA upcoming events...**

HASA are working hard to support High Ash.

**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. Raffle tickets will be going home with the children today.

Please do try and support HASA as their work makes so much difference to the school. They are currently fundraising for a class set of Chomebooks for KS2 and a class set of tablets for KS1.



*Diary dates for next week commencing 16th March...*

- Wednesday 18th March, 10.00-12.45pm - Year 6 Hazard Alley Knife Crime Workshop
- Wednesday 18th March, 2.45pm - SEND Tea and Cake
- Wednesday 18th March, 3.30-4.15pm - Year 6 Girls Football Fixture v Newton Longville (Home). Invitation only
- Thursday 19th March, 9.00-9.30am - Foundation See Us Shine morning
- Thursday 19th March, 3.30-4.15pm - Year 6 Mixed Football Fixture v Whitchurch Academy (Home). Invitation only
- Friday 20th March, 2.55pm - KS2 Star Assembly, doors open at 2.45pm. Invitation only
- Friday 20th March, 3.3-4.15pm - Year 6 Girls Football v Swanbourne School (Home). Invitation only

Have a great weekend,

Mrs. Kate Goodger  
Headteacher

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

# THIS WEEK'S MENU

**EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM**

**MONDAY**

- Beef chilli taco & rice
- Five bean chilli taco & rice
- Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese or tuna mayo

**TUESDAY**

- Home made sausage rolls
- Vegan sausage rolls with baby potatoes
- Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese or tuna mayo

**WEDNESDAY**

- Roast chicken or roast ham or with all the trimmings
- Vegetable roast with all the trimmings
- Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese or tuna mayo

**THURSDAY**

- Ash Tree chicken tikka masala with rice
- Spiced roasted cauliflower steak with rice
- Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese or tuna mayo

**FRIDAY**

- Fish fillet served with chipped potatoes & peas
- Vegan Chai dippers served with chipped potatoes
- Jacket Potato - with cheese, beans or tuna

**EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THE SCHOOLS CHALLENGE**

**HIGH ASH C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL PROUD TO OOH**

[WWW.HIGHASHSCHOOL.CO.UK](http://WWW.HIGHASHSCHOOL.CO.UK)